



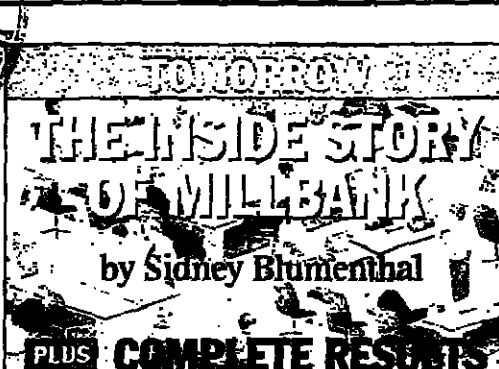
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**THE INSIDE STORY  
OF MILLBANK**  
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PLUS COMPLETE RESORTS

## Landslide forecast for Labour

### Tories facing worst defeat this century, say TV exit polls

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR will today enter Downing Street as the first Labour prime minister for 18 years after a landslide victory, according to surveys of voters as they left the polling booths yesterday.

With the glorious sunshine of the hottest day of the year boosting the general election turnout, temperatures reached 25C in London.

Labour appeared to be on course to achieve its first working majority for 31 years. An NOP exit poll for the BBC put the Labour vote at 47 per cent, the Conservatives at 29 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 18. The poll suggested a massive victory for Labour and the worst result for the Conservatives this century.

A Mori exit poll for ITN predicted that Labour would win with a 159-seat Commons majority. It forecast that Mr Blair's party would have 409 seats, the Tories 177, the Liberal Democrats 45 and other parties 28.

John Prescott described the likely outcome as a "remarkable testimony to the courage and vision of Tony Blair".

If the exit polls were borne out by the actual results, the Conservative Party faced a catastrophic result, with swaths of seats — including some held by Cabinet ministers — being lost across the country.

John Major, who fought a brave, almost lonely, fight in the longest election campaign since the Second World War, seems certain to step down as party leader. He is expected to make his intentions clear today, opening the way for a

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contest that is likely to involve several Cabinet ministers and John Redwood, the defeated challenger in 1995. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary who will certainly be a candidate for the Tories, said: "The Conservative Party has done itself no good by showing its divisions. That is what we need to reflect upon."

Asked about Mr Major's position, he replied: "We do not have the outcome yet. When we do, John Major can consider it. He will not need any advice from me."

The Conservatives have privately known for weeks that

were not making the kind of breakthrough necessary to give them any kind of chance.

In truth they probably started losing the election in the autumn of 1992 when sterling was forced out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, an episode that fatally damaged the Government's reputation for economic competence. At the same time the Conservative parliamentary party became convulsed by an argument about Britain's future relations with Europe that has never fully subsided.

It was to resurface disastrously for Mr Major three weeks ago when he and his Cabinet appeared isolated from his party's candidates with more than 200 of them — including ministers — making plain their outright opposition to the single currency.

Mr Major's hopes of profiting from a lengthy campaign had already been spectacularly derailed when the cash-for-questions affair returned to haunt him. In spite of persistent efforts to persuade him to stand down, the former Trade Minister Neil Hamilton insisted on his right to contest the Cheshire seat of Tatton while he continued to proclaim his innocence of charges being investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. His stand provoked Labour and Liberal Democrats to withdraw their candidates in the constituency, leaving the way clear for the former BBC broadcaster Martin Bell to challenge him on an anti-sleaze ticket.

The Tory campaign was



Tony and Cherie Blair taking the "pretty route" to vote with their children Kathryn, Nicholas and Euan in Trimdon, co Durham yesterday

further hampered by a structural dispute at its heart. While Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, wanted to run on the "Britain is Booming" theme, highlighting the growing success of the economy, the Eurosceptics were convinced that an anti-single currency stance would be decisive. Belatedly Mr Major played the Europe card. But he gave a confused message by concentrating on allegations that Labour would sign up to a federal Europe, while

he was himself unable to rule out a single currency.

At the beginning of last week when a "rogue" poll put the Labour lead at only five points there was a glimmer of hope for the Conservatives. But their plan, announced at the end of March, for a reform of old-age pensions had not gone down well on the doorstep and Labour shamelessly exploited the position by alleging that the state pension was going to be abolished.

The Conservatives had no choice but to hit back, claim-

ing that Mr Blair and his colleagues were liars. But any momentum that had gained from the Europe attack was lost.

Labour, thwarted in 1992 when victory seemed within their grasp, fought a cautious campaign designed to protect its lead. It will be seen as a huge personal triumph for Mr Blair, who along with Gordon Brown and a handful of other "modernisers" founded new Labour after he took over in July 1994, convincing the electorate that a fresh party was

on offer. A key element in its success has been the removal of Labour's ancient tax-and-spend image which has damaged it at all recent elections. The Shadow Chancellor's decision to rule out income tax rises for a Parliament was a key move in killing the fear factor.

Mr Blair, hesitant at first, visibly strengthened as the campaign proceeded and the prospect of victory came closer. Today he will be the first Labour leader since James Callaghan to form a Cabinet.

Mr Brown will become his Chancellor, Robin Cook his Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, his Home Secretary, and Mr Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and environment overlord.

On the Conservative side, attention will soon switch to the leadership contest which is expected in late June or early July. Certain contenders are Mr Portillo, Michael Heseltine, Michael Howard, Mr Renshaw, Stephen Dorrell, Kenneth Clarke and possibly William Hague and Malcolm Rifkind.

### Thousands left to die in Zaire

"The sick, the wounded and those too weak to walk are being left to die in the mud of the Zairean rainforest. Every hour another group of Rwandan refugees, some with horrific wounds, emerges from the forest. They trudge towards an assembly point or collapse by the side of the rutted road." David Orr reports from Kisangani. Page 19

### Attempt to arrest Nadir in Turkey

The Serious Fraud Office has sent officers to Turkey in an attempt to have Asil Nadir arrested and returned to Britain after he said he would travel to Turkey from northern Cyprus. Nadir fled four years ago before appearing on theft and false accounting charges. Page 27

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### Jail for judge who drove while five times over limit

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A JUDGE who drove while almost five times over the alcohol limit was jailed for five months yesterday. Cheltenham Magistrates' Court also imposed a four-year driving ban on John Reeder, QC, a high-flying Admiralty counsel who sat as a recorder in various crown courts.

Reeder's wife Pauline wept in the public benches as he was led from the dock to begin his sentence. The magistrates rejected a bail application by Nigel Pascoe, QC, who said he would appeal.

The court had heard that Reeder, 48, from Tolleshunt, Maldon, Essex, was tested at Cheltenham police station after a road accident on the Cirencester-Cheltenham road at 10.50am on April 4.

His Range Rover pulled out from a minor road into the path of another car, causing it to roll over several times and injuring the occupants. Police found that the recorder had a bottle containing vodka in his pocket. He told officers at the scene: "It is my fault."

After a night in the cells he admitted a drink-drive offence and his case was adjourned until today for reports. Reeder resigned as a recorder two days after the hearing.

In mitigation Mr Pascoe referred the bench to numerous letters of support, two doctors' reports and a probation report. He told the bench that Reeder had suffered from

"the albatross of alcoholism" and detailed 15 years of stress in his married and legal life.

In 1980, he said, Reeder became an Admiralty counsel — the youngest ever to be appointed, when he was 31. But the highly prized position brought enormous stress.

As counsel he had to deal with major disasters such as the loss of the Penlee lifeboat, in which six men died, the European Gateway tragedy in which six were lost and the sinking of the Herald of Free Enterprise, which cost 193 lives.

A medical report suggested that the judge could have been affected long-term by studying the communications between sinking ships and shore. Mr Pascoe said: "They were the last words of men without hope knowing they were going

to their deaths." Most trained lawyers were able to put such harrowing evidence behind them but it appeared that Reeder was not one of them.

Reeder had serious problems with alcohol from 1984 to 1986. Before the break-up in 1987 of his first marriage he and his wife had tried in vain on six occasions to have a child through fertility treatment. There were also financial problems.

Reeder is likely to be discharged, putting an end to his career as a barrister, Mr Pascoe said. All the background problems had contributed to an exceptionally high level of stress for the "fragile personality".

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has made clear that drink-driving is to be regarded as so grave as to amount to misbehaviour which can lead to dismissal.

In 1993, a district judge, Angus MacArthur, was fined £3,000 and banned for two years after being found guilty of drink-driving.

Magistrates found guilty of drink-driving offences are automatically removed from the bench, but judges are not. The Lord Chancellor has justified the difference by saying that judges earn their full livelihood from their posts and JPs do not. However in practice a serious drink-driving offence could lead to dismissal.



Reeder suffered stress and alcohol problems

### Mother who was refused Down's test wins £300,000

By Emma Wilkins

A WOMAN who gave birth to a boy with Down's syndrome after a military doctor advised her against a screening test won £300,000 compensation yesterday, ending a six-year battle with the Ministry of Defence.

Sandra Hurley, who was 35 when her son Matthew was born, said that she was "deliriously happy" with the sudden settlement on the fourth day of a hearing at the High Court in London. The ministry, which did not admit liability, will also pay Mrs Hurley's costs.

Mrs Hurley, now 42, from Aldershot, Hampshire, plans to buy her son a computer and a pony and to take the boy and his nine-year-old sister, Leah, on holiday to Australia. Most of the money will be placed in trust for Matthew's future.

"I am absolutely delirious with happiness. I brought this action to secure Matthew's future and the money will really help me to help him," Mrs Hurley said.

She sued the MoD for damages claiming medical negligence after Major Lawrence Roberts of the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, advised her against taking an amniocentesis test. The procedure carries a 1 per cent chance of miscarriage.

During her evidence, Mrs Hurley told Mr Justice Hooper that she would have

terminated her pregnancy had she discovered that her baby was suffering from Down's syndrome.

She said that she was convinced that something was wrong with her baby, but claimed that Major Roberts dismissed her fears and told her "Don't be silly". She said that he refused her the test, advising her that the risks of having a Down's syndrome baby were no greater at 35 than at 26.

This information was "clearly substandard" because statistics show that a 35-year-old pregnant woman has up to a three-and-a-half times greater risk of giving birth to a Down's syndrome child as a 26-year-old, Richard Davies, QC, told the court.

Major Roberts, who denied telling her the risks were the same as for a 26-year-old, conceded that he had advised Mrs Hurley against the test and warned her that she risked aborting what was probably a perfectly healthy foetus.

Major Roberts, who has since left the Army, said that the Cambridge did not consider amniocentesis for women under 37 in 1990. It was an option for those between 37 and 39, and it was automatically offered to those over 40.

Joy and grief, page 3

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'I will care for Matthew until I die but I can't help worrying about what happens after that'

## Joy tinged with grief for mother of Down's child

By Emma Wilkins

WHEN Sandra Hurley first held her newborn son Matthew in her arms, the joy of giving birth was tinged with the fear that Matthew, a floppy baby who did not open his eyes, was suffering from Down's syndrome.

Mrs Hurley, who was nearly 30 when Matthew was born, feared throughout her pregnancy that she would give birth to a handicapped child. While in a maternity bed at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, with husband Michael by her side, it seemed as if her worst fears were to be realised.

Despite her worries, it took doctors six agonising weeks to diagnose that Matthew was suffering from Down's syndrome — a condition which could have been detected if Mrs Hurley had taken an amniocentesis test during pregnancy.

Matthew, now 6½, attends a special school and has a mental age of a three-year-old. He has a vocabulary of 50 words and is an affectionate child who likes riding, swimming and playing on a computer.

While she adores her son, Mrs Hurley is adamant that if she had known of his potential disability during her pregnancy, she would have had a



Mrs Hurley and son Matthew, who has special needs

termination. "When Matthew was born the doctors put him on my chest and I kissed and cuddled him. I fell in love with him instantly but I knew something was wrong because he seemed so floppy," she said.

"When I was pregnant I had this constant fear that there was something wrong with the baby. My husband and I talked it through and we decided we didn't want a handicapped child. That's why I went to the hospital and asked for an amniocentesis."

"The moment Matthew was born I bonded with him. But it's like somebody telling you that you're going on holiday to a paradise island and then

ending up in France. France is just as good, but it's not what you expected."

Throughout the six-year legal action, Mrs Hurley's main worry has been for the future. Doctors who have examined Matthew say there is no reason why he should not live until 55 by which time his mother will be 90. The future has always worried me to death which is why I have pursued this action," she said.

"I'm in good health at the moment and I will care for Matthew until I die but I can't help worrying about what happens after that. If anything should happen to me or my husband I'm frightened that

Matthew would be put into a home where they would be nasty to him. I lie in bed at night thinking about it."

Mrs Hurley's daughter, Leah, nine, assures her mother that she will always care for him. "Leah is lovely, she adores Matthew and understands his disability. But it breaks my heart when she says 'Don't worry Mummy, I will look after him' because she's only nine."

The strain of caring for Matthew contributed to the breakdown of Mrs Hurley's marriage, but her husband, who works as a builder, visits his son every day.

"I must say my husband is excellent with him. He comes round every day to see Matthew and just worships the ground he walks on."

Her elder son Adam, 22, from a previous marriage, is similarly smitten. "He is brilliant with Matthew. All Adam's friends adore him too. We are very lucky as a family to give each other so much support," she said.

Taking the legal action has been exhausting but it has been worthwhile to secure a future for my son. My lawyers have been fantastic and extremely kind. I am just delighted it's all over and we can return to normal life together as a family."



Sandra Hurley, 36, at the High Court yesterday, where she won her legal action

## Loyalists end Maze protest after deal is struck

By Nicholas Watt  
Chief Ireland Correspondent

LOYALIST inmates ended a three-day rooftop protest at the Maze last night after the Government relaxed conditions at the high-security jail.

Prison officers were expected to regain control of two wings from Ulster Defence Association prisoners after intense negotiations between senior government officials and loyalist leaders.

The protest was brought to an end after the Government agreed to end compulsory lock-ups, which were introduced for all inmates after the IRA escape attempt last month. Under an agreement between government officials and loyalists, prison officers will carry out two head counts a day in the dining rooms on each wing. During the count, prison officers will inspect individual cells.

The new regulations, which will apply to loyalist and republican prisoners for a four-week trial, mark a softening of regime. The inquiry into the attempted break-out recommended that republican and loyalist inmates should be locked in their cells twice a day for about 15 minutes to allow prison officers to carry out head counts and inspect cells.

UDA prisoners took to the roofs of their blocks and set fire to observation towers on Tuesday because they said it was unfair to penalise them for the escape attempt by the IRA. Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the UDA's political wing, said last night after talks with UDA inmates at the Maze: "We can say that an agreement has been found and the protest will end forthwith. Normality will be restored within a matter of days."

The deal came after loyalists highlighted the protest with a wave of hoax bomb warnings in Belfast. In a call to the BBC just after 11am a man, who did not use a recognised codeword, said four vehicles had been abandoned throughout the city, including the republican Ardoyne area. An hour later another caller made a similar claim.

## Sunbathers drown as high tide comes in

TWO women sunbathers drowned yesterday after they tried to swim ashore from a rock at high tide. The friends were enjoying the fine weather at Limeslade Bay, Mumbles, near Swansea, during the day but became cut off when the sea came in.

The alarm was raised when they were later seen struggling 20 yards out at Tuff Head. An inshore lifeboat pulled both women from the water and the crew gave them mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as they took them to shore.

Officers from Swansea's coastguard HQ overlooking the bay were also at the scene. The women, aged in their twenties, were taken to Singleton Hospital.

One was pronounced dead on arrival shortly after 2pm. Staff fought in vain for four hours to revive the second woman. David Williams, the hospital chief executive, said: "Our doctors and nurses worked desperately to save her life."

Limeslade Bay is popular with sunbathers, but strong, cold currents that sweep past the head can catch swimmers by surprise. South Wales Police said: "Clothing was found on the rocks and in the water. Officers believe it belongs to the women and we are making strenuous efforts to identify them and trace their relatives."

## Teenage rider dies after fall from horse

By Lin Jenkins

A TEENAGE rider thrown from a racehorse collapsed and died in the bath hours after being released from hospital.

Natasha Glynn, 17, was injured when riding an unraced two-year-old colt from trainer Ian Campbell's Charnwood stables on the gallops at Newmarket, Suffolk, during early morning exercise. The colt, Young Shabaz, "one of her favourite charges, was at the back of a string of seven and cantering when she fell."

Miss Glynn regained consciousness after about a minute and said that she could not recall what had happened. She was released from hospital after being examined three hours later.

She was found collapsed in the bath of her lodgings in Newmarket and taken back to hospital where she was pronounced dead. It is thought she might have drowned after passing out. A post-mortem examination was being held yesterday.

Miss Glynn, whose parents live in Maidenhead, Berkshire, had a passion for horses and was determined to spend her life with them. She had hoped to be a jockey.

Her father, Anthony, said yesterday that he was angry at the decision to release her from hospital. "Nothing is going to bring her back, but if a mistake has been made, I want to be sure it never

happens again. She loved horses. Horses were her life. She was just 17 and had so much to look forward to."

Mr Campbell paid tribute to her yesterday. "She was a lovely kid; the best girl we had in our yard and one of the best people employed here. She could have become a good jockey. She had a good way with the horses and it wasn't her riding that was at fault when she fell."

William McKeon, head lad at the stables, said: "The horse could have stumbled. He is a big, friendly horse. He stumbled the day before when I was riding him and it seems like it could have happened again."

Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge said that an inquiry into her treatment and release from hospital after examination for concussion had been launched.



Miss Glynn: died after release from hospital

## Spy camera can check cars in 4 seconds

By Stewart Tindler  
Crime Correspondent

A SURVEILLANCE camera capable of instantly checking a car numberplate with a central computer is being heralded as the latest weapon for the police in the war against crime and terrorism.

The system, which can scan up to 300,000 index numbers an hour and check them against national police records in four seconds, is operating at the City of London's "ring of steel" anti-terrorism cordon. It has been so successful that officials believe that it could be used at ports, on motorways and in city centres.

The system was introduced as part of the City police drive against another IRA bomb attack, after those at the Baltic Exchange and Bishopsgate. In its first two months of operation, it has resulted in 47 arrests mainly for driving stolen cars but also for fraud. Other drivers have been held because they are wanted by police on arrest warrants. Another 1,045 vehicles have been tracked or stopped because of suspected links to terrorism and other crime.

The system links the closed-circuit television cameras covering the checkpoints on the edge of City with a computer in the police headquarters at Wood Street and the Police National Computer at Hendon, north London. The system can check a car in the time it takes to change gear.

The timetable would be:

□ As the car passes one of the 47 police cameras, an image is sent by fibre-optics to a computerised index number reader at Wood Street. This takes one second to turn the signal into computer-readable data.

□ The index number is fed into the Police National Computer network and sent to the computer at Hendon. The number is checked against a national list of vehicles the police are interested in.

□ The results are sent back to the City police three-quarters of a second later.

□ If the car is wanted, a computer beeps an alarm and a screen of data flashes up.

□ Police on the road in the City are then alerted.

## Girl raped on pop star trip

By Stewart Tindler  
Crime Correspondent

A GIRL aged 13, who slipped out of her home at night to see her favourite pop star, was picked up and raped three times by the driver of a London taxi.

The girl's grandparents, with whom she lives in Southampton, thought she was in bed asleep and her ordeal was disclosed only when she was questioned by a concerned teacher the next day.

The rapes happened on March 23. Police have spent a month investigating the story and trying to check taxi driv-

ers. The rapist may have been the owner of a secondhand taxi.

Detective Inspector Alan Harvey said the girl, an only child, had wanted to knock at the door of the pop star and see who came to answer.

She began to walk from the station to the house because she had no money left, but at 12.30am the taxi pulled up beside her near the Savoy Hotel on Strand. The girl told the driver she did not have money and he offered to drive her without payment, saying it was dangerous for a girl to be out late at night.

He drove to an all-night café

where he left her locked in the taxi while he fetched tea and a bun. He then drove to the Barbican area where he raped the girl. The other rapes are believed to have been in east London. The driver drove her back to Waterloo station at about 4.30am and gave her £20.

The girl, now 14, is 5ft 2in with shoulder-length blonde hair and was wearing a suede jacket, short denim skirt, black tights and a small blue patterned rucksack. Her attacker was 30 to 40 with dark brown receding hair. He wore an Umbro tracksuit and training shoes.

## Risk of non-sedating hay fever pills

By Ian Murray  
Medical Correspondent

ALL the most popular hay fever pills that do not cause drowsiness are potentially dangerous, according to data from 17 countries about the side-effects.

Last week the Health Department gave warning that one popular range of tablets sold by chemists, based on the drug terfenadine, could be fatal to people suffering from heart conditions. The Royal College of Pharmacists announced a day later that it had similar worries about a second range containing the drug astemizole.

The latest warning about a third drug, loratadine, comes in a letter published in *The Lancet* today. This says that statistics from the 17 countries for which sales data is available show that collectively the

drugs increase the risk of heart abnormalities and death. There was only a tiny level of spontaneous adverse reaction reports of 0.25 per million doses sold daily.

The reactions associated with terfenadine and astemizole showed that these drugs tended to block the potassium channels in the heart. Although this did not occur with loratadine, the drug still caused ventricular heart rhythm irregularities. There were also signs of some reaction to two other non-drowsy making drugs, acrivastine and cetirizine.

"These crude rates reflect doctors' concerns with these products, but do not provide a definite answer," Ralph Edwards and Marie Lindquist from the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for International Drug Moni-

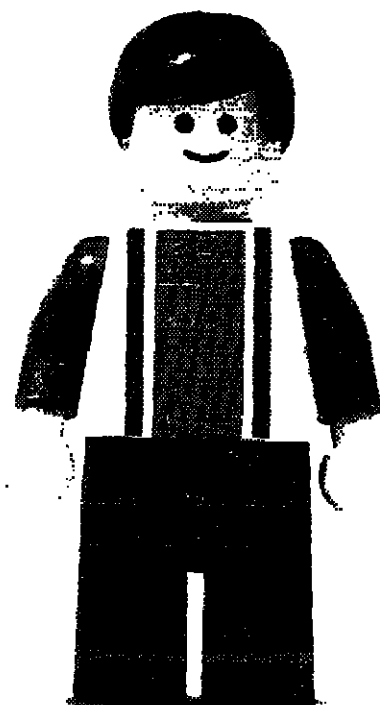
toring in Uppsala, Sweden, concluded: "Nevertheless the data indicate that some of the alternatives to terfenadine may have similar problems, suggesting that thorough consideration of the risk/benefit profile of all non-sedating antihistamines is wise."

Following last week's warning, drugs containing terfenadine are expected to be made available only on prescription by the Medicines Control Agency. Already most chemists will sell the preparations to sufferers only after warning them of the dangers. Such pills should not be taken with antibiotics, antifungal drugs or reconstituted grapefruit juice.

Loratadine is contained in a Boots own-brand, Hayfever Relief All Day Antihistamine, and the product Claritin. Astemizole is sold under the brand names Pollon-eze and Hismanal.

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## Chalet owners win battle to save Arcadian idyll

By Ian Murray  
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A COMMUNITY of owners of pre-war chalets has won an eight-year legal battle against eviction from the woodland village where they live an Arcadian lifestyle, cut off from the modern world.

Their right to stay at Holsfield, a 14-acre site on the Gower peninsula near Swansea, was backed yesterday by the House of Lords. In a ruling quoting Roman, Australian, American and 19th-century case histories as precedent, the five law lords agreed unanimously that the wooden chalets were a permanent fixture and could not be moved.

If the chalets were permanent buildings, residents were protected by the Rent Act. If they were considered to be mobile homes, they were not. Lord Lloyd of Berkeley said that the building was not like a Portakabin or mobile home. It could be removed only by demolition — a factor of great importance.

The residents now hope to



A resident protesting during evictions two years ago

buy the field from the landlord who tried to evict them. Drawing on support from environmentalists during their long battle, they believe they can raise £350,000 to obtain the freehold. Isabel Griffin, of Shelter Cymru, which backed the case, said: "Now the land has no development potential, it cannot be worth more than that."

The community was originally established during the Second World War by people

who moved into the chalets to escape bombing. Residents bought the ramshackle buildings and paid the field's owner an annual fee for a licence to keep them there.

There are several long-term residents, including Dai Morris, 50, who moved there in 1971 and who was chosen to fight the test case. "Our life is idyllic," Mr Morris said yesterday. "We don't need to lock the doors. The plumbing may

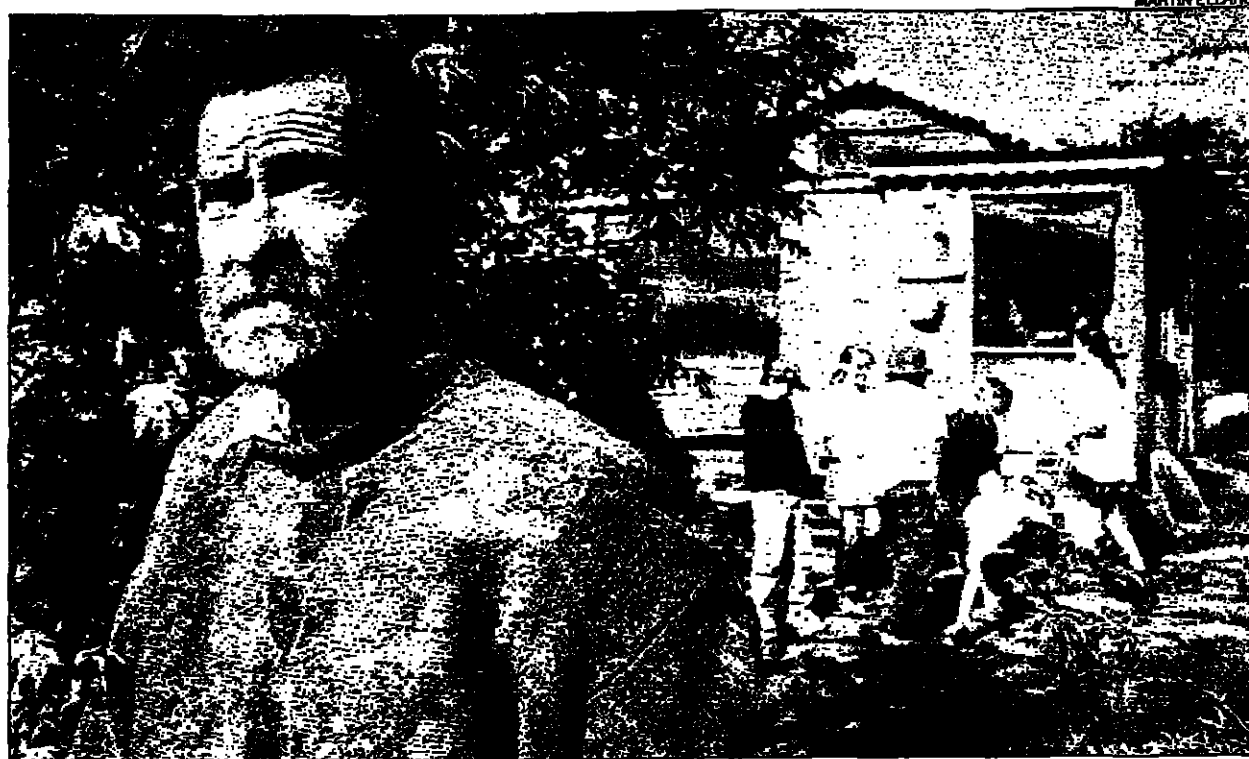
be a bit primitive but we are used to it and the friendly, co-operative lifestyle we enjoy more than makes up for that."

Two of the 39 adults who live in the village are aged over 80 and there are 27 children, many of whom were born in the chalets. Residents include a schoolteacher, a nature reserve keeper, artists, a mechanic and a nurse. Four are unemployed.

The site was bought in 1989 for £175,000 by Tim Jones, 45, a Swansea solicitor and director of Ellistone, a development company. His title deeds to the land included a certificate from Swansea council allowing "residential use".

Until then residents paid £85 a year to keep their homes in the field. Mr Jones wanted them out, and when they refused to go he asked a £1,000 licence fee for six months without security of tenure.

The residents refused to pay and insisted that as protected tenants they had the right to stay permanently. Swansea council refused Mr Jones planning permission for execu-



Dai Morris, 50, fought the test case for residents, who now hope to buy the freehold. He said life there was idyllic

tive housing and declared Holsfield to be a conservation area, ordering that nothing could be changed.

The idea is to maintain the community of people whose lifestyle is a reflection of a social development during the course of this century," Eddie Ramsden, the city's chief envi-

ronmental health officer, said. The residents received support from *Perspectives on Architecture*, the magazine inspired by the views of the Prince of Wales. Giles Worsley, the editor, said: "Without interference from planners or developers, a community has grown naturally with remark-

able social and architectural results. It could be a model for organic growth in the countryside."

Helen Carter, a playgroup leader who has lived at Holsfield for 15 years with her husband, David, a graphic designer, said: "We are all so relieved. It has been a great strain all these years, not knowing what was going to happen to our homes."

Mrs Carter, mother of Ann, 8, and Adam, 3, added: "This is a wonderful place to bring up children. I don't think we would ever want to leave our little chalet. The surroundings are so beautiful and friendly."

## Specialist hits out over Ecstasy girl's death

By Gillian Bowditch  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A 15-YEAR-OLD Ecstasy victim, who died after being refused a liver transplant should have had the operation and would have had a high chance of surviving, a leading liver specialist said yesterday.

He accused the doctors who refused to treat Michelle Paul of being too moralistic and of delaying her treatment.

Professor Roger Williams, head of the Institute of Hepatology at University College London, told a fatal accident inquiry into the death of Michelle Paul, who died of liver failure after taking half an Ecstasy tablet, that the girl's family background of drug abuse had played a part in the decision to refuse a transplant.

Michelle's mother, Carol Ann Paul, a former drug addict, and her grandmother, Margaret Pirie, have both claimed that the decision was made on moral grounds.

This claim has been denied by Dr Hilary Sanfey, the surgeon at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary where Michelle died. Another member of the transplant team admitted that Michelle's truancy and her drug-taking had played a part in the decision to refuse her the £60,000 operation.

Yesterday Professor Williams said "moralistic interpretations which appear to underlie Dr Sanfey's opinions are not acceptable for a life-death decision on a young person. The reaction she had to half an Ecstasy tablet was idiosyncratic because many people take many more tablets and never have any trouble."

The hearing was adjourned until May 27.

## Appeal plan for Dame Shirley surcharge

By A Staff Reporter

THE decision to impose a £31.6 million surcharge on Dame Shirley Porter and five former colleagues in the Westminster City Council "homes-for-votes" affair is to be challenged in the High Court.

The former Tory council leader, who has indicated that she wishes to submit fresh evidence, was among those directed to make themselves available for questioning at an appeal due to begin on October 2. Her QC asked the three judges in the case to disregard the "horrifying" publicity surrounding it.

Three Westminster councillors and three officials, including Dame Shirley, who now lives in Israel, were accused by John McGill, the district auditor, of wilful misconduct and disgraceful and improper gerrymandering between 1987 and 1989. In May last year he made them jointly and severally liable to repay the £31.6 million estimated to have been spent on the housing policy after finding that they had tried to fix election results in marginal wards by moving council tenants and selling their homes cheaply to people who were more likely to vote Conservative.

Lawyers for Dame Shirley and her former colleagues will argue in the High Court that the auditor's methods of procedure and conclusions were fundamentally flawed and that the surcharge, by far the biggest against a local authority, was imposed unfairly.

Yesterday Lords Justices Rose, Latham and Keene laid down a timetable for the hearing and gave directions on the extent to which fresh evidence would be admissible.

## Helicopter concert has strings attached

By Dalva Alberge  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CONCERT goes in London are turning to the big screen for their premiere of a composition that cannot possibly be performed on stage. It features four musicians and four airborne helicopters.

The film of the *Helicopter String Quartet*, by the avant-garde composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, is to be presented before a concert by the London Sinfonietta on the South Bank. The work originally was performed by the Arditti String Quartet at the 1995 Holland Festival in Amsterdam. Each musician flew in a separate helicopter from the Dutch Air Force, linked by remote cameras and microphones. The roar of the motorblades was an integral part of the composition.

Their manoeuvres and speed affected the sound and it practice took to decide on the best position for the microphones. The performance was relayed to a concert hall where Stockhausen mixed and matched the sound. The Dutch film-maker Frank Scheffer recorded the event for the 75-minute film, which has its first London screening at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on May 10.

Irvine Arditti, first violinist of the quartet, said his original reaction to the idea had been to laugh: "We commis-



Irvine Arditti in action: "It was great," he said

sioned him to write the piece. He wouldn't tell me what it was. He said that we would need a good technical team to realise it and that if people knew what it was about before it was written, it wouldn't be taken seriously. "It was great. You couldn't believe you were performing a piece and riding above the canals of Amsterdam."

The composer explained that the idea came to him in a dream. Mr Arditti added: "I asked him for a quartet for many years. He felt he couldn't write a quartet. Such a classical medium didn't appeal. I tried to persuade him. In a dream, he saw helicopters flying in the sky."

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As the nation basks in May Day heat, official figures show that April showers were not enough

## Drought action begins for the lakes in peril

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE year's first drought order by the Government's Environment Agency was announced yesterday, to protect fish in a network of lakes which is running dry.

The news that river water will be pumped into the lakes at Horton Kirby, south of Dartford, Kent, came as the agency released figures showing that April rainfall was low, despite some downpours last weekend.

Two of the smaller water companies — Sutton and East Surrey, and Essex and Suffolk Water — said that some restrictions on customers were possible within weeks. Guernsey is imposing the year's first hosepipe ban.

The Environment Agency said that more water companies were heading for restrictions but were officially "keeping a brave face" and hoping for the best, which is more rain. Publicly, few companies say that restrictions will be necessary, so long as

conditions are no worse than in 1995.

The most rain in April fell in the North West, which had 39.4mm, 55 per cent of its long-term average. Among the lowest, Sussex had 8.2mm (14.6 per cent), Hampshire 12.5mm (24.3 per cent), and Kent 7.6mm (14.4 per cent).

Under yesterday's Kent order, one twentieth of the flow of the River Darent will be pumped into the vulnerable lakes to protect fish such as chubb and roach. Pumping stations will raise five million litres a day from the chalk below to top up the Darent.

A survey of water authorities shows:

Anglian Water: reservoirs 75 per cent full. Ground water, from which half supplies come, at low level. Latest profits £137.8 million. Investing £70 million a year in anti-drought measures.

Northumbrian Water: reservoirs 85 per cent full. Ground water low but used for only 3

per cent. Profit £92 million before tax. Spending £10 million over three years on anti-drought measures.

Southern Water: reservoirs 95 per cent. Ground water, supplying 70 per cent, well below average. Spending £150 million up to 2000 on anti-drought measures. Profits not available since takeover by Scottish Power.

North West Water: reservoirs 90 per cent. Ground water, supplying 10 per cent, in good shape. Group profit £223.9 million, including a big electricity company. Has spent £55 million on drought measures since 1992, with more on leakage detection.

Severn Trent: reservoirs about 90 per cent. Ground water, supplying about a third, below normal. Profit £373 million. Has spent about £200 million over 18 months on anti-drought measures.

Welsh Water: reservoirs 85 per cent. Ground water supplies negligible. Owners

the Hyder Group had £12.9 million profit. Spending £40 million on anti-drought measures.

South West Water: reservoirs 71 per cent. Ground water, supplying 9 per cent, below normal. Profit £109.1 million. Spending £100 million until 2000 to cut leaks to 15 per cent from 21 per cent.

Thames Water: reservoirs 97 per cent. Ground water, supplying 24 per cent, well below normal. Profits £324 million. Spending £200 million until 2000 to halve leaks from 28 per cent.

Yorkshire: reservoirs 87 per cent. Ground water, supplying 20 per cent, low. Profits £100 million. Has spent £170 million since 1995 fighting drought.

Wessex Water: reservoirs 86 per cent. Ground water, supplying 80 per cent, below average. Profit £121.7 million. No specific anti-drought investment as no restrictions in 20 years.

## Look out for blue skies and long delays

By Harvey Elliott, Travel Correspondent

EMERGENCY services are preparing to deal with road accidents of road accidents later today as millions of families head for a long weekend at the coast and countryside.

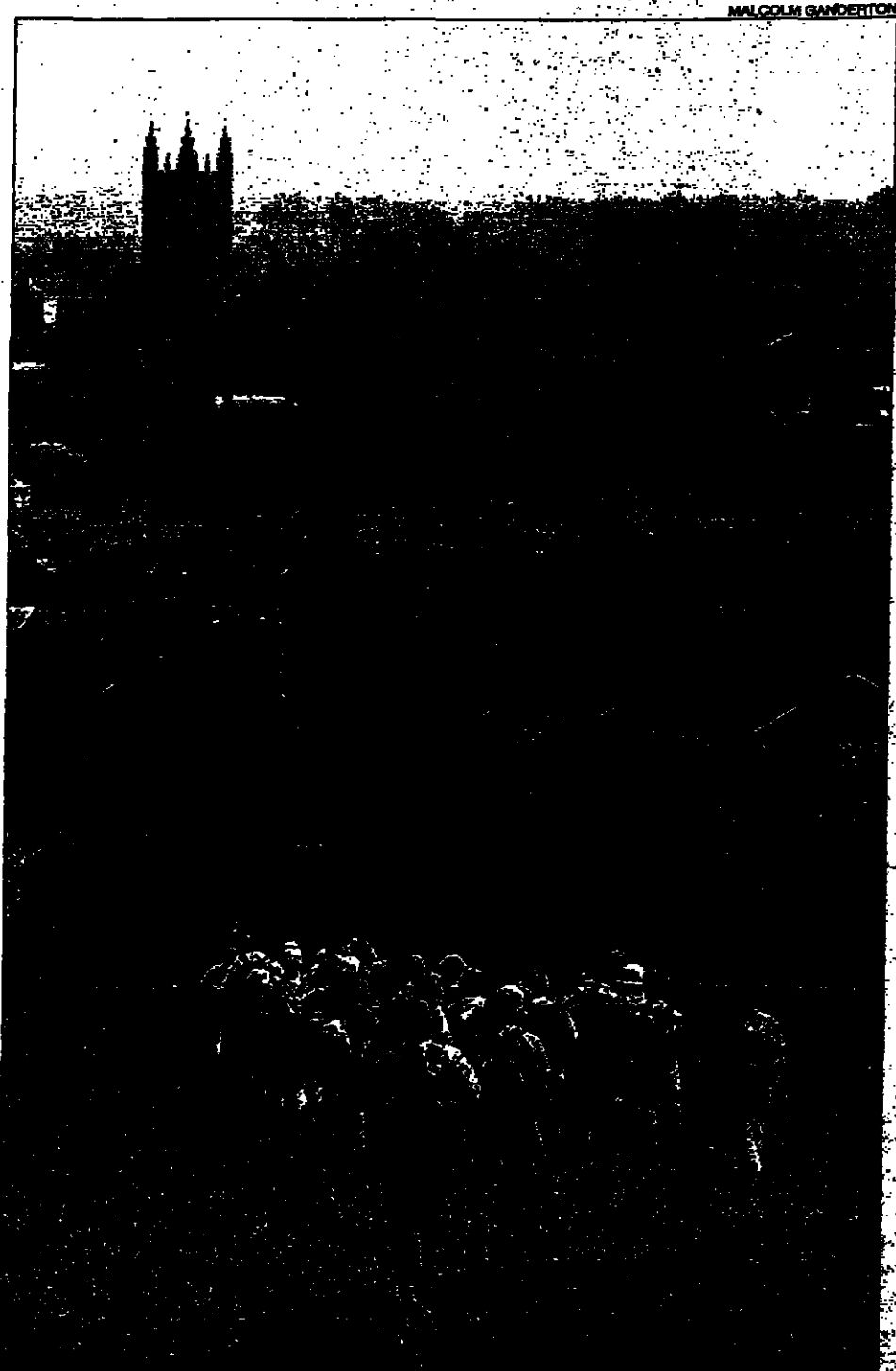
With fine weather forecast for most of the country until Bank Holiday Monday, many roads leading to coastal resorts, theme parks and out-of-town shopping centres are expected to be jammed.

British lorry drivers and holidaymakers heading for France could also face delays. French lorry drivers are preparing for a national day of action on Monday, which could include a blockade of ports. An AA spokeswoman advised people to listen to travel reports before crossing the channel.

The London Weather Centre said that the fine weather should last until Sunday evening but a front crossing all parts will bring rain and much cooler temperatures on Monday.

With an estimated 2½ million children preparing for examinations, the number of families going abroad will be well down on Easter but at least five million drivers are expected on the roads this weekend.

The AA says that drivers are more likely to have an accident on the day before a long weekend than on any normal working day. Department of Transport statistics show that 16 per cent more accidents take place on the Friday before the May Day holidays than on an average day.



Some of the 850 French walkers who converged on Canterbury yesterday to mark the fiftieth anniversary of their equivalent to the Ramblers' Association.

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## Assault case lawyer faces suspension

A 'barry solicitor' who rugby tackled the wife of a wealthy client and pinned her to the floor of his Belgrave office during a dispute over title deeds was given a three-month suspension from practice yesterday. Allen Chubb was convicted last year of assault and false imprisonment and ordered to pay Laura Harold £10,000 in compensation. The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal lifted the suspension pending appeal.

## Officer acquitted

A former Army officer who was court-martialed for false accounting has been cleared by Southwark Crown Court of taking a £100,000 bribe for awarding contracts to a food supply company. John Ewart, 51, of Dilton Marsh, Wiltshire, had denied the charges.

## Fatal bus crash

A man died and 30 children from Spittal County First primary school in Berwick-upon-Tweed were taken to hospital after his car collided with their school bus at Scremerston, near Berwick. One girl, aged 9, was kept in hospital with whiplash injuries.

## Solicitor cleared

A solicitor accused of squandering £630,174 of clients' money has been cleared of all charges by Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court. Simon Kaberry, 49, of Leeds, had denied ten charges of theft, three charges of false accounting and one of deception.

## Book sales speak volumes for changing library tastes

By Lin Jenkins

PUBLIC libraries are selling treasured works in response to a funding shortfall and the changing taste of borrowers, who demand more sound recordings and videotapes.

Librarians fear that important works are being lost for a fraction of their worth, or that such sales inadvertently break up valuable collections. The profession is to draw up a code on how to dispose of books in order to preserve national heritage and prevent great works being undersold.

A study commissioned by the British National Bibliography Research Fund, a charitable arm of the British Library, found that local au-

thority libraries made £4.3 million a year from the sale of stock. Sherry Jespersen, of the Library Association, said: "It is an absolute tragedy when 'disposal' of stock is demanded by funding imperatives and libraries find themselves forced to sell stock which they have looked after in trust for their borrowers and future generations."

The study by Capital Planning Information found that each of the 180 library authorities received an average of £23,974 from book sales. The National Book Committee has prepared further statistics on the crisis facing leading libraries and plans to

put the case for extra funding to the new government at the earliest opportunity. The committee claims that funding is "woefully inadequate for the task" of providing the service required under the 1964 Library Act.

Guy Daines, head of professional practice at the Library Association, said: "Librarians are not in the business of being antiquarian booksellers and I am sure some get caught out on occasions."

Bloomsbury Book Auctions said that, over the past decade, there had been a noticeable increase in the number of former library books coming on to the market.

## Gun control campaign is wound up

THE Snowdrop Campaign, the anti-gun group set up after the Dunblane massacre, disbanded yesterday. Its final act was to urge the public to continue fighting for tougher gun laws through the Gun Control Network.

Snowdrop has given the remaining £2,000 in its account to the network, which was set up after the Hungerford massacre in 1987.

The Snowdrop Campaign put pressure on the Government with a 750,000-name petition calling for a ban on all handguns. Ann Pearson, one of the three women who founded the group, said: "We have achieved more than we ever thought possible."

## The politics of parking

LEAVING my local polling station yesterday, I noticed two coaches parked in close proximity, a red one to the left of the building, and a blue one to the right.

To complete the picture, a yellow Mini was in the process of squeezing into the space between them.



Needless to say I didn't have my camera with me.

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## Violent teacher struck again on first day in class

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TEACHER with a history of violence against pupils found work at a comprehensive school and assaulted three children on his first day. Yesterday a magistrate expressed concern that Simon Hartley had never been prosecuted before, and that he found work despite being dropped from a county's list of approved staff.

Hartley, 42, a humanities teacher, admitted grabbing a 12-year-old boy's hair, hitting him twice around the head and dragging him across the floor by his tie. He then chased two 13-year-olds from the classroom, bruising one of them on the arm and pushing the other against a wall.

Plymouth Magistrates' Court was told that he snapped during the last lesson of his first day. When confronted about his behaviour, the supply teacher told the headmaster: "They deserved it."

Philip Wassall, the stipendiary magistrate, said he was concerned that, although Hartley had attacked pupils twice in the past, he had not been prosecuted although he had been removed from the Devon County Council approved list. Mr Wassall said: "Teaching is a very stressful and demanding job. Back in

1992 you were told you were not suitable to be a teacher because of your background and your difficulty in coping with the stresses. Regardless of your own conduct, it is a matter of the greatest concern to me that someone whose name had been removed from the list of supply teachers was employed again by the authority. It is a matter of good fortune that the injuries to the boys were slight."

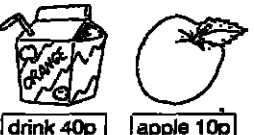
Hartley was put on probation for three years on condition that he seek psychiatric care. He was ordered to pay £75 compensation to the 12-year-old and £25 compensation to one 13-year-old. The children cannot be identified.

David Teague, for Hartley, said that his client had suffered from epilepsy and diabetes. He had taken the job because he had been unemployed since 1992 and was worried his benefits could be stopped.


## Single-figure results to be replaced by subject marks and age comparison

**MATHEMATICS TEST FOR 7-YEAR-OLDS**

Sample question:



drink 40p apple 10p



banana 18p crisps 23p

Bethan has 6p. She wants to buy a drink. How much more money does she need?

p

**ENGLISH TEST FOR 7-YEAR-OLDS**

Sample question:

Fill in words in bold (missing on test paper) read aloud by teacher.

Dear Em,  
It is good here. We are staying in a big house near the sea. I am enjoying my holiday.

This morning we went for a walk. We went down the road to the beach. Mum let me take some pictures with her camera. I said, "Can you all smile please?"

I can't wait to see them. I think one will be very funny because Dad got soaked by a big wave. It made him shout.

Then we met our new friends and played football. My family lost by two goals. Afterwards, I collected shells in my bucket.

See you soon,  
Love from Danny.

**MATHEMATICS TEST FOR 11-YEAR-OLDS**

Sample question:

Here is the cost of pizzas.

	Small	Medium
Ham	£4.20	£5.50
Salami	£4.40	£5.75
Mushroom	£4.50	£6.00
Cheese	£3.80	£4.95
Tuna	£4.25	£5.40
Extra tomato	50p	
Extra cheese	60p	

All orders one small cheese pizza with extra tomato.

What is the total cost? £

Ben buys one small pizza and one medium pizza. They cost him £10.

Which two could they be?


one small and one medium pizza

**ENGLISH TEST FOR 11-YEAR-OLDS**

Sample question:

Look who's talking!  
The story Time Trouble starts with a clock that talks.

Write your own short story about something that one day suddenly starts to talk. You will have 15 minutes to think about what to write and 45 minutes to do your writing. The pictures may give you some ideas.



You should think about:

- what it is that talks
- what it says
- who it is talking to
- what happens next

## Parents score primary tests victory

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

GOVERNMENT advisers admitted yesterday that the test scores given to primary school children for the past three years did not give an accurate picture of their progress.

Instead of a single figure showing the level of the national curriculum reached by seven and 11-year-olds, schools will be able, at the end of this term, to give parents actual test marks and an age-related score as well. Although schools will not be obliged to include the extra information, parents will be able to demand all three scores.

The eight-level scale used to assess

pupils' progress through the curriculum has been criticised since its introduction as confusing for parents. Especially in primary schools, the boundaries have been set so widely that most children in class appear on the same level.

Nick Tate, the chief executive of the new Qualifications Assessment and Curriculum Authority, said at a briefing on this year's tests: "We have responded to parents' perceptions of the inadequacy of national curriculum information by itself."

Dr Tate said the national curriculum levels remained useful for tracking national trends, but parents wanted to know how their children compared with others in their class.

"The levels by themselves do not provide adequate information. They need to be supplemented."

The new scores, calculated for seven-year-olds for the first time last year, will assess children's test performance in English and mathematics against the average for their age to within one month. Primary schools have been sent instructions enabling them to make the necessary calculations at both seven and eleven.

After focus group research on last year's tests, 11-year-olds will also be given separate scores for reading, writing and spelling. Like the age-standardised scores, it will be up to the school whether to include the information in end-of-year reports.

The first of this summer's classroom tests begin next week, with 14-year-olds tackling English, mathematics and science. They will be followed in mid-May by 11-year-olds. With individual assessment of seven-year-olds already under way, almost two million children will be tested before the end of the current term.

Next week's exercise will include new tests of mental arithmetic, grammar, spelling and punctuation at 14. All are being introduced as a pilot programme to iron out any defects before becoming compulsory in 1998. Although 70 per cent of schools have opted to take the mental arithmetic test, only 25 per cent have put in for the grammar, spelling and

punctuation papers. More than 100 schools have pulled out of the pilot after seeing the tests, and English teachers have threatened to stage a boycott.

David Hawker, the official responsible for the tests, said some schools did not like the form of testing, while others claimed that they needed more time to prepare their pupils. The authority has produced a booklet for secondary schools, encouraging them to use the test results to group pupils according to ability. Dr Tate said that there was no question of schools using the tests to select pupils because the results came too late in the year. However, they were suitable for setting.

## Jet noise puts pupils at a disadvantage

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CHILDREN whose schools are in the flight paths of major airports do not learn to read as easily as those in quiet schools, research in New York has shown.

Psychologists from Cornell University compared the performance of 116 children from two elementary schools, one on the flight path to New York's international airport and the other in a quiet area near by, matched for class and race. The noisy school was exposed to peaks of aircraft noise rising to 90 decibels every 6.6 minutes.

Gary Evans and Lorraine Maxwell, both environmental psychologists, first tested the hearing of the children, all of whom were aged either five or six. Then they tested them for the ability to read, to distinguish words against background noise, to distinguish sound against background noise, and to distinguish word sounds under quiet conditions. They found that the children from noisy schools could hear sounds amid the

noise, but were less adept at hearing speech.

"We've known for a long time that chronic noise is having a devastating effect on the academic performance of children in noisy homes and schools," says Dr Evans. "This study shows that children don't tune out sound *per se*, rather that they have difficulty acquiring speech recognition skills."

The implication is that children become less skillful in language because of the high noise levels, which in turn affects their ability to learn to read. Other factors may also be involved in noisy schools and neighbourhoods, including parent and teacher irritability, and their reluctance to speak as much, use as many complete sentences, or read aloud as often as other parents or teachers.

The psychologists say that noise is responsible for many health problems, including hearing damage, stress, motivational problems and reduced cognitive development.

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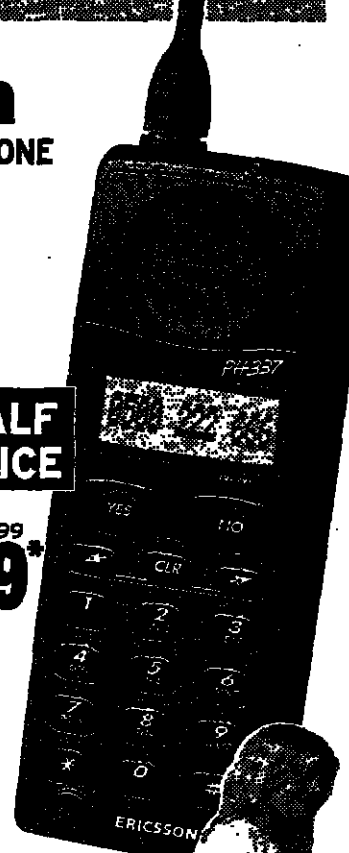
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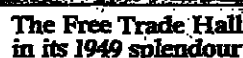
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**BY RUSSELL JENKINS**



The council's planning department received a formal planning application for the project last week. Richard Lese, the council leader, has



**By ROBIN YOUNG**

**ASTRONOMERS** have used a new technique to resolve a paradox that stars appear to be older than the universe, (Nigel Hawkes writes). A Sussex University team used measurements from the Hubble space telescope to estimate the ages — and from this the age — of distant galaxies, showing a universe at least 13 billion years old. The oldest stars are put at 12 billion. If both figures are right, the universe had a billion years to begin cooling to form the first stars.

Brighton council found the open-air pool too costly to maintain and a private buyer with plans to redevelop the building ran out of cash. Now Brighton

Only a few lidos across Britain remain in use. Jill Sack, of the 20th Century Society, said it was a disgrace that Saltdan had been left to rot. "We have followed the fortunes of Saltdan closely because it is a classic example of Art Deco architecture and a building of great historical value," she said. "We have lost so many lidos and this is one of the very best. It is vital it is restored."



**ASTRONOMERS** have used a new technique to resolve a paradox that stars appear to be older than the universe. (Nigel Hawkes writes). A Sussex University team used measurements from the Hubble space telescope to estimate the size—and from this the age—of distant galaxies, showing a universe at least 13 billion years old. The oldest stars are put at 12 billion. If both figures are right, the universe had a billion years to begin cooling to form the first stars.

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Parfitt had just returned from tour

## Status Quo singer has surgery after tour

BY IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICK Parfitt, co-founder 30 years ago of the rock group Status Quo, is recovering in intensive care after a four-hour emergency quadruple heart bypass operation.

He had just come back from a two-month world tour with the group when he felt chest pains. On Wednesday morning Parfitt, 48, was admitted to the Wellington Hospital in west London. Tests showed a critical narrowing of arteries to the heart and immediate surgery was recommended. The operation began at 9pm and ended at 1am yesterday.

Brian Glenville, the surgeon, said the singer had gone from having moderate angina to becoming critically ill in a very short time and that emergency surgery was an "urgent requirement".

"We gave him four bypass grafts, which is a fairly routine operation nowadays, and he has come through nicely. He's sitting up and joking and making a nuisance of himself. Sometimes people do not need an operation for up to ten years but Rick reached that condition after the first twinges in the space of about four weeks."

Mr Glenville said he saw no reason why Parfitt should not be back with Status Quo in August.

Repeated success has become a national joke that is draining the television coffers

## Ireland shudders at prospect of another Eurovision win

BY AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND is praying for *nuls points* at tomorrow night's Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin when it tries to avoid winning for the fifth time in six years.

The contest has cost the country about £10 million since 1993 and Ireland's repeated success is draining the resources of RTE, the national broadcaster, which funds most of the contest. "We're sick to death of it. But we keep winning, no matter how bad the song," a source at RTE said.

Tomorrow's contest will cost £2.7 million to stage at the Point Depot, a renovated 19th-century warehouse on the banks of the Liffey. RTE's television and radio budget has provided £1 million, with the remainder coming from sponsors and the European Broadcasting Union.

Ireland first won the competition in 1970 when Dana sang *All Kinds of Everything*. Then, and when Johnny Logan won ten years later with *What's Another Year?*, the contest generated great excitement. Success was the perfect vehicle for promoting Irish tourism as snapshots of green countryside were relayed around the world.

Similar benefits were



Marc Roberts: will sing for Ireland tomorrow

reaped in 1993 when Ireland won again, and there was a surge in national pride in 1994 when the music and dance extravaganza *Riverdance* was unveiled as the interval act. But now the Irish people want to spend their money on other things. Tourism is booming and the Eurovision contest is no longer regarded with such enthusiasm, or seen as a vital link to the outside world.

Even Michael D. Higgins, the Culture and Arts Minister, is crying halt. He suggests that all the participating countries take their share of the financial burden. "If Ireland wins time and time again, then is it fair to have one

country carrying all the costs?"

Up to 600 million people around the world will watch the contest. RTE wants to attract a younger audience and has rejected the Celtic mysticism that has prevailed in recent years in favour of a modern, upbeat, technological show. Ronan Keating, the lead singer of Boyzone, is co-hosting the competition. His band will perform a new song during the interval.

Britain, Germany, Austria and Switzerland have done away with national juries this year: viewers will now phone in their preferences. A telephone number will flash on the screens during a song. The entry that receives the most calls from viewers will be awarded the most points.

The British, Irish and Italian entries are the bookmakers' favourites to win. The group Katrina and the Waves — best known for the 1980s hit *Walking on Sunshine* — is representing the United Kingdom, with *Low Shine A Light*. But the group's lead singer, Katrina Leskanen, 36, is doubtful that she will outdo the ballad-like Irish entry, *Mysterious Woman*.

"Taxi drivers, people on the street, everybody in Dublin is saying they do not want to win it," Ms Leskanen said. "Even Marc, the singer, is saying he



Irish Eurovision winners, clockwise from top left: Johnny Logan in 1980 (*What's Another Year?*), Dana in 1970 (*All Kinds of Everything*), Charlie McGettigan and Paul Harrington in 1994 (*Rock 'n' Roll Kids*)

is not allowed to win. But I think he could still do it. He's a good performer."

It is 16 years since the United Kingdom won the Eurovision Song Contest. The last success was in 1981, when Bucks Fizz won in Ireland

with *Making Your Mind Up*, creating quite a sensation when the women's skirts were ripped off during the dance routine.

The United Kingdom has won the competition three other times since the first



contest in 1956. In 1965 Sandie Shaw stole the limelight with *Puppet on a String*. In 1969 Lulu won with *Boom Bang-a-Bang*, and in 1976 Brotherhood of Man won with *Save Your Kisses for Me*.

Pamela Anderson, spokes-

woman for the BBC, said that the United Kingdom was keen to hold the competition again. "We are already looking for a venue for next year."

Leading article, page 23  
Pop, page 38

## Riverdance helps children to step across sectarian divide

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



Flatley: star of show taken up by Protestants

TRADITIONAL Irish dancing is breaking down sectarian barriers in Ulster as Protestant children flock to classes for the first time in the wake of the worldwide success of the *Riverdance* show.

Community leaders are hailing the influence of the show, which stars Michael Flatley, as Protestants and Roman Catholics rub shoulders at dancing competitions which were once the preserve of Catholics.

In an extraordinary development, Protestant children throughout the

Province have taken over loyalist Orange halls for their weekly Irish dancing classes. The halls, where loyalists normally beat out anti-papal songs, are now reverberating to the sound of Irish tap-dancing.

Irish dancing burst onto the world stage in 1994 when *Riverdance*, which lives up Irish dancing with dramatic music, received its first public performance. Since then the show has toured the world and played to packed houses in New York and London.

The show, which has grown into a £40 million business, has become so popular that there are now two

*Riverdance* companies on separate worldwide tours. One group is currently playing in Edinburgh, while the second group of 80 dancers and musicians is touring Australia.

A Protestant dance teacher in Northern Ireland said that her classes had doubled in size as a direct result of *Riverdance*. Jacqui Haggan, from the fiercely loyalist village of Eden, Co Antrim, who was one of the few Protestants to teach Irish dancing before *Riverdance*, said: "Children have seen the video, or they have seen the show, and they are just hooked on it." Her classes have become so popular that Mrs

Haggan recently took over the village's Kilroot Orange hall on Saturday mornings.

She said that she had no time for those who thought that Irish dancing was only for Catholics. She scoffed at those Catholics who were taken aback when they saw her embroiling dancing costumes in the newsagency where she works in a nationalist area of Belfast. "To class Irish dancing with religion is very silly. Irish dancing is the dance of Ireland and I live in Northern Ireland, which is part of Ireland."

Another Irish dancing group has

attracted scores of Protestants from the loyalist Shankill area of Belfast. The youngsters took part in the recent Shankill festival where they were cheered on by Orangemen perplexed to see Irish dancing at a loyalist event.

Chris McGimpsey, an Ulster Unionist councillor in the area, said: "There is clearly an increasing acceptance of Irish dancing as being no longer culturally threatening. The relaxation is a direct result of the ceasefires, because people are less likely to be hostile to Irish dancing when it is not seen as being part of a militant nationalist campaign."

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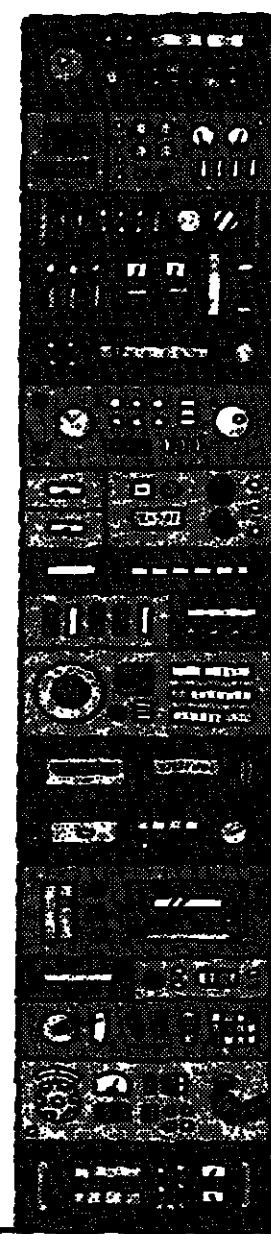
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## Broadmoor staff accused of care dispute vendetta

By Richard Ford and Ian Murray

MEMBERS of the Prison Officers' Association in three top security mental hospitals are accused today of waging a vendetta against nurses and managers who are trying to improve conditions for 1,400 patients.

They are blamed for a new wave of hate mail, victimisation and intimidation at Broadmoor, Ashworth and Rampton hospitals, which house many of Britain's most dangerous and mentally ill offenders.

At one hospital, a toy grenade was found under the car of one of the senior managers, according to today's report by Professor Elaine Murphy, chairwoman of City and Hackney Community health services trust.

"In all three hospitals a hard core of staff, at Broadmoor estimated to be 150 or so, are believed to be behind a new wave of hate mail, intimidation of new staff, victimisation of non-members and threats to senior managers," Professor Murphy writes in

the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

In the three hospitals, nursing staff traditionally belonged to the POA. But since last year, when the hospitals came under the National Health Service, there has been an influx of nurses from mainstream hospitals and the POA has lost its sole negotiating rights.

Professor Murphy told *The Times* that her information about intimidation and violence came mostly from Broadmoor hospital in Berkshire and Ashworth hospital on Merseyside. She refused to disclose at which hospital the toy grenade had been found.

She said that staff at the hospitals had received hate mail consisting of montages of newspaper reports bearing the words "We are going to get you", "We are going to smash you" and "We are going to make sure you do not work in this hospital for long".

Professor Murphy, formerly vice-chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission, said

the mail and intimidation was aimed at staff who were believed to support a more liberal regime in the hospitals.

She said that intimidation, including abusive remarks, physically cornering staff and telling them to watch their step was aimed both at colleagues and managers.

Ms Murphy said that the POA's rigid, authoritarian and denigrating attitudes to patients had a damaging influence on standards of care. Among patients held in Broadmoor are Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, and in Ashworth, Ian Brady, the moors murderer.

Spokesmen at each of the hospitals said they had not received any reports of hate mail or other kinds of intimidation. However, an official at one of the hospitals said there was some truth in Professor Murphy's allegations and that many people working in the institutions would support her sentiments about the negative attitudes of a core of POA members.



The Matthew leaves Bristol today to retrace Cabot's epic trip to Newfoundland

## All-male voyage runs into storm

By Tim Jones

A LEADING yachtsman is embarking with an all-male crew on a voyage to retrace John Cabot's 15th-century discovery of Newfoundland.

After slipping anchor in Bristol today, David Alan-Williams hopes to be greeted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh seven weeks later when he sails a £1.5 million replica of the *Matthew* into Bonaville harbour.

In his wake, he leaves criticism for having no women among his crew of 19. But Mr Alan-Williams, a crew member of the New Zealand catamaran that holds the Jules Verne record for circumnavigating the world in 74 days, denied that he was prejudiced. He said: "It is just not true I am a sexist. I would have been happy to have them among the crew, but the few who applied just didn't work out."

However, Samantha Brewster, 29, the first woman to sail single-handedly around the world against the prevailing winds, said: "On a crew it is about teamwork rather than brute strength. This is just an excuse for being sexist."

The *Matthew*, an 80ft, three-masted caravel, landed in Newfoundland in 1497, five years after Columbus discovered the West Indies. Cabot,



John Cabot reached Newfoundland in 1497

an Italian, was commissioned by Henry VII to explore easier trade routes to Asia. He set sail with a crew of 18, including his three sons.

Today's *Matthew*, built at a cost of £1.5 million, is a faithful reconstruction of Cabot's ship except for the accessories that would have mystified the 15th-century explorer. These include an engine, radar and radio navigational system, flush lavatories and a desalination unit to ensure a supply of fresh water.

For food, the crew will rely on dehydrated stews and soups. These will be supplemented by fruit and vegetables. One day a week they will eat as Cabot and his men did on a diet of dried meat, salted fish and dried fruit.

## Killer sent back to Britain as free man

By Shirley English

A BRITON who spent 23 years in jail in Australia for killing four people was due to arrive back in this country from Sydney this morning after being deported.

Archie "Mad Dog" McCafferty was driven from Sydney's Long Bay Jail yesterday and put on a Heathrow-bound Qantas flight accompanied by three immigration officials. On his arrival, McCafferty will be a free man and could live anywhere in Britain. His parole in Australia had strict conditions, including a ban on drink and drugs, which played a part in his crimes, but they will not be enforceable here.

Australian immigration officers refused to give him final destination, but sources said he would probably be accompanied to Glasgow, the city he left 39 years ago as a child when his family emigrated. The council has been reluctantly preparing for his arrival. McCafferty, 49, was jailed in 1974 for murder for leading a gang that carried out three random "thrill killings" in Sydney in 1973. Then aged 23, he was obsessed with the number seven, and said he would kill seven times. In 1982 he was convicted of the manslaughter of a fellow prisoner.

At a hearing last month McCafferty claimed he had changed and no longer suffered delusions, and appealed to his victims' relatives for forgiveness. He was granted parole, but Australian immigration authorities insisted an earlier deportation order be carried out. He had never applied for citizenship and became ineligible after his jail sentence.

He is due to meet his wife, Mandy, who is thought to have flown to London last weekend. The couple married several years ago while he was in jail.

Yesterday a Glasgow councillor, Paul Martin, said it was morally wrong for Australia to dump McCafferty in Scotland. Glasgow City Council confirmed that social workers had made contingency plans.

## Hostel man is cleared of murder

The former manager of a hostel for homeless men was cleared of a murder and three attempted murders of residents in his care. George Brittain, 56, who was manager of Summerhill Home in Birmingham, was found guilty of two assaults and one charge of causing actual bodily harm, and will be sentenced today at Birmingham Crown Court. Mr Justice Owen discharged the jury without a verdict on a second murder charge.

## Surprise at No 10

Yvonne Kemp, 48, has become a mother for the tenth time, and she did not know she was pregnant. Mrs Kemp, from Selby, North Yorkshire, gave birth to Tracy, who weighed 7lb, as she was having a bath.

## Murder charge

Nicholas Burton, 27, will appear before Stockport magistrates today charged with murdering Rachel McGrath, 27, last Friday. He was remanded in custody yesterday, charged with kidnapping a 17-year-old woman.

## Ice star dies

One of the stars of the skating show *Holiday on Ice* has died while scuba diving in France. John Hayward, 30, from Chippenham, Wiltshire, died on Monday as he took a break from the show with his Russian girlfriend.

## Widow's £2.7m

The Californian widow of Lord White of Hull raised £2.7 million at Christie's in New York from a sale of art and antiques from their Bel Air mansion. Victoria Tucker, 34, is now married to a millionaire farmer in Idaho.

## Shining record

Terry Burrows, 41, from Essex, reclaimed the world window-cleaning record, cleaning three 45m windows in 18.46 seconds at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. "I was flying the flag for Britain," he said.

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OPEN BANK HOLIDAY



Civil servants receive guide to traps and pitfalls of accepting hospitality — in and out of the season

## Ascot and Henley are sleaze-free but beware the opera

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ASCOT, Henley and the Chelsea Flower Show are acceptable but Wimbledon, Covent Garden and Glyndebourne are not. This is not a new guide to the season but the ground rules for public servants to protect them from charges of sleaze and corruption.

Offers of hospitality worth more than £100 — and events such as Wimbledon, Covent Garden or Glyndebourne, where tickets are generally unobtainable by the public — should be turned down by civil servants and senior government. A round of golf is OK but guests should pay their own

green fees. Free tickets for trade shows and fairs are in but a free flight to Paris for the air show is out.

These do's and don'ts are contained in a booklet by Dr Michael Harte, a former senior official at the Ministry of Defence. The guide is also intended to help companies and businessmen who wish to offer hospitality or gifts to public servants. The golden rule suggested is: don't embarrass officials with lavish offers.

Many MPs last year shunned invitations for strawberries and cream at Wimbledon, and government officials

are also now extremely wary of offers of hospitality. The jailing this year of Michael Alcock, a tax inspector, for accepting large sums of money and even the services of a prostitute has concentrated the minds of civil servants.

Such cases are rare but in the wake of sleaze allegations public servants have to demonstrate incorruptibility with rigour. Dr Harte said: "It is often easier for officials to say no to every offer than make a judgment in each case."

The new strictness has caused many private firms and businessmen to feel they were being cold-shouldered by officials with whom they have had longstanding contacts.

"Many private firms think their company must have done something wrong. They are confused by the rules that govern civil servants and senior officials. So I decided to draw up the boundaries."

In *Negotiating Nolan* — a guide to business ethics in the public sector, Dr Harte bans any overnight stay, free transport (except from the nearest station or airport), and any gift valued at more than £50. His benchmark is, "keep it simple, stupid", and, when in doubt, "don't".

Dr Harte warned companies that they should restrict their efforts to gain

influence and should never invite the husband or wife of an official. Civil servants should never enter company raffles unless they leave instructions for the prize to be donated to charity. Dr Harte's booklet says.

Officials must decline invitations to stay at a company villa in the south of France, for instance, even for a conference. Companies too should avoid such tempting offers. Dr Harte said: "Here it is not the refusal that offends but the offer itself."

He points out that the maximum allowance rules for

public servants was less than £100 a day. Claiming more was extremely embarrassing. He suggests that if any contract process is under way firms should make no attempt to offer hospitality. Nor should they invite public servants to expensive star-studded occasions.

Dr Harte relates the story of an Army major who was offered tickets for Pavarotti in Manchester. He was uncertain what to do, so consulted his colonel. "With subtle appreciation of the issues involved, the colonel went himself. It is not easy to see

what Army business needed to be discussed to the strains of *Nessun Dorma*," Dr Harte believes, however, that a sponsored event by a company at a gallery or museum is an acceptable invitation for some officials. The acceptance of a glass or two of champagne, a few cocktail nibbles — and a full catalogue — is not likely to lead to a parliamentary investigation.

At present there are no blanket rules in Whitehall about hospitality and each department has its own view. Departments monitor offers and accepted invitations in

hospitality books, although anyone determined to cheat the system would not bother to record any offers made.

The Ministry of Defence, with many links with business, has very strict rules. The Department of National Heritage is also strict, because of its role in sponsoring arts and sporting events. But it would be judged acceptable for a senior official to make, for example, three visits to the Royal National Theatre a year.

The Inland Revenue has a simple test — clearly ignored by Alcock — of not accepting

any gift or hospitality unless the official could claim it back as a departmental expense if he or she had paid for it.

Dr Harte adds in a note of caution, however, that it would be a remarkably stupid civil servant to make or change a decision as a result of a good meal or night at the opera. He suggests that if the official is corrupt he would seek a higher price.

Dr Harte comments that it would be a highly unintelligent outside operator who sought to directly influence a decision by applying pressure after a heavy lunch.



Henley Regatta, from July 2 to 6 this year, is deemed acceptable to officials because the public can buy tickets to watch the rowing events



Glyndebourne is out because few tickets are available

## English asparagus makes perfect pick-me-up

THE English asparagus season is now in full swing, three weeks earlier than usual. A 100g portion supplies three quarters of the foliate and a quarter of the vitamin C required each day (Robin Young writes). Asparagus 'spills' rapidly in storage, so it should be eaten as fresh as possible.

Traditionally used in folk medicine as a tonic and a diuretic, asparagus has also been recommended for treating neuritis, rheumatism, poor eyesight and toothache. It is, though, one of the few vegetables high in purines, which gout sufferers should avoid because they contribute to the build-up

of uric acid salts in the joints. Promotions this week include:

Asda: rump steak £5.49 a kg, pork chops £2.99 a kg, selected ready meals three for price of two, frozen premium cod fillets in butter £2.85 for 600g.

Bedsale: Scottish smoked salmon £6.99 for 400g, pork chops £2.99 a kg, whole chicken £3.99 for 1.5kg, unsmoked Danish bacon rashers £3.99 for 400g, large eggs 99p doz.

Co-op: chicken breast fillets £3.99 for 500g, Cherry Valley marinated Peking duck £2.99 for 340g, cucumbers 39p each, sweetcorn 99p for 400g.

Harrods: Caciottou goats' cheese £6.99

each, fresh cooked asparagus £1.99 for 100g, asparagus and mushroom soufflé £2.99, Iceland: top rump steaks £1.49 for two, ham and pineapple stonebake pizza 99p for 9in, pork chops £3.99 for 1.36kg, basted chicken £3.99 for 2.4-2.6 kg.

Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb £2 a kg off, chicken breast portions £2.99 for four, pizza style pizzas 50p off, paracotta 79p for 2 x 100g.

Morrisons: super roasters £3.99 each, Cumberland/Lincolnshire thin sausages £1.19 for 680g, brislet of beef £3.06 a kg, Safeway: topside/silver-side/top rump with basting fat £5.29 a kg, unsmoked Danish gammon steaks with pineapple £1.69 for two (227g), Double Gloucester cheese 99p for 250g, ham and pasta salad 59p a ½ lb.

Sainsbury's: chicken breasts £4.25 for four, frozen cod portions in crumbs £1.95 for 500g, NZ leg lamb £5.29 a kg, fillet steak £13.88 a kg, closed cup mushrooms £1.69 for 750g, Sainsbury's: pork loin chops £3.99 a kg, chicken breasts £3.55 for 520g, Wiltshire ham 60p a ½ lb, thin and crispy ham and mushroom pizza 99p for 315g.

Tesco: foreb of beef £4.49 a kg, half leg of lamb £4.85 a kg, pork chops £3.99 a kg, monkfish £3.99 a lb, raw peeled tiger prawns £1.49 a ½ lb, carrots 51p for 1.5kg, onions 52p for 1.5kg, Waitrose: chicken £5.89 for 2.5kg, large free range eggs 89p for six, ground veal £1.19 for 280g, pork escalopes £1.99 for four (340g), stringless beans £1.29 a lb, asparagus £1.59 for 250g, gourmet salad £1.29 for 125g.

## Brawl forces pilot to land

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A JET had to make an unscheduled landing yesterday after two men allegedly attacked other passengers in a drunken brawl.

The aircraft was flying 326 people home to Manchester from a holiday in Mexico. The fighting began an hour before touchdown. One passenger was injured and the crew landed the Airtours Boeing 767 at Shannon in Ireland. Irish police arrested two

men from Liverpool but, to the surprise of airline officials, they were allowed to leave. Last night the two were believed to be making their own way to Manchester, where they face being charged with endangering aircraft safety and being drunk on board.

Passengers who had complained about the men's behaviour helped the crew to restrain the two after they had allegedly hit a 51-year-old property developer who was

trying to protect his wife. If found guilty, the men could face a maximum sentence of two years in prison and a fine of £2,000. Both airlines and courts are clamping down on drunken and violent behaviour on board aircraft.

Manchester police had expected the men to be handed over to them and were angry at the lack of action by the Irish. Airtours said it was taking the incident "very seriously" and was determined to take the case to court.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To all parents of babies who are eating  
Heinz from 7 Months  
Pasta Stars with Lamb & Tender Vegetables  
Red Label Variety in 200 g jars.

A part of one production batch of this variety was subject to a label printing error. The product has been manufactured as intended with skimmed milk powder as shown on the ingredient list, however, the tick list on the labels of some jars wrongly indicates that the recipe is milk free.

The product codes affected, which are printed on the rim of the jar lid, are:

09-98 KN 0637 00:00 through to 09-98 KN 0637 23:59

and

09-98 KN 0647 00:00 through to 09-98 KN 0647 23:59

A very small number of babies may be intolerant to milk, and so as a precaution Heinz is voluntarily recalling all of this production batch with the above codes from shops and is advising mothers to discard any jars that they may have bought.

Independent medical authorities have advised Heinz that this issue is restricted to those babies who need a milk-free diet and for these babies the likelihood of a reaction is low. Nevertheless, as a precautionary measure, Heinz has decided to withdraw the affected product.

If you have any jars of this product with these codes at home please return their labels to us at H J Heinz Company Limited (Consumer Contact Department), at Hayes Park, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8AL. Heinz will refund the purchase price and postage. Heinz would like to apologise to parents for any inconvenience.

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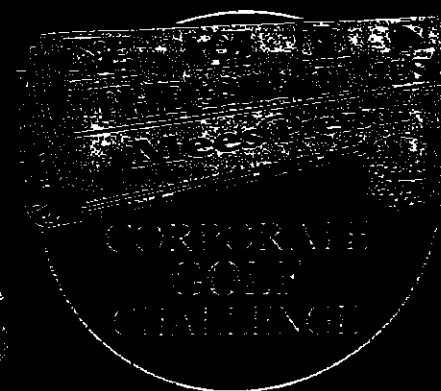


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New rules mean only a few owners of blighted homes can expect hardship payments of up to £5,000

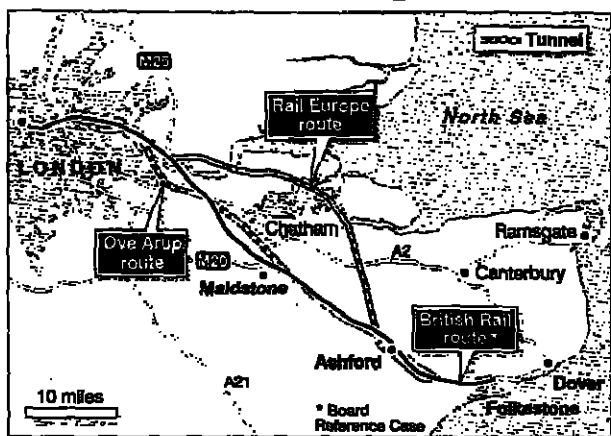
## Rail link compensation is an insult, say residents

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

HOUSEHOLDERS in Kent whose homes have lost thousands of pounds in value because of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link are protesting over tough new compensation rules that have been slipped out by the Government.

After studying details of the scheme they feel let down by the Department of Transport and believe only a handful will benefit from compensation. Under the proposals, victims who lived within 100 metres of the rail route between June 1990 and April 1994 could receive up to £5,000 as a "solace" payment for exceptional hardship.

Stephen Hinton, a surveyor and expert on planning blight, said the scheme was an insult. "If you live near a new road, whether it is a motorway or trunk road, a park-and-ride scheme, or a power station, you will be bought out or you will be paid compensation. You would not have to live



within 100 metres — you could live 300 or 400 metres away and still be paid."

He said someone with a £150,000 house on the route of the M25 would either have been able to sell his home for full value or would have expected to receive about £30,000 in compensation.

Mr Hinton said hundreds of people along the rail route should be eligible for substantial compensation and the law

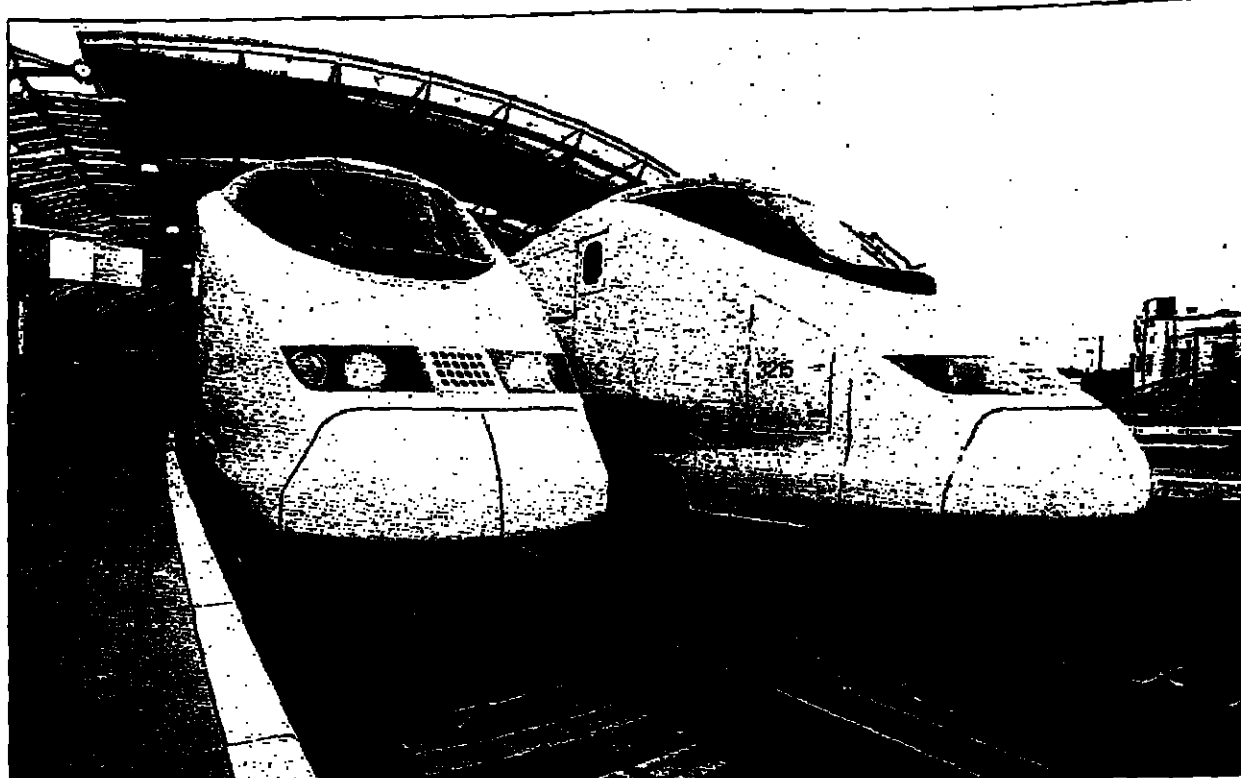
should be consistent. But as well as limiting payments to £5,000, the Transport Department had also drawn up stringent eligibility rules.

Claimants have to prove that they suffered exceptional hardship. Loss of a job would not count. Someone in need of cashing in on the equity in their home, to extend the mortgage for an extension or other loan, would also be excluded. Mary Durling, who

has lived in the village of Boxley for 18 years with her husband and four children, said: "I think it is wicked the way everyone has been treated." The Durlings had hoped to extend their Victorian cottage but with property values plummeting they were unable to raise extra borrowings on a mortgage.

"The rail line will be 400 metres from us, and it is possible we will lose the end of the garden," Mrs Durling said. "It's not just the financial hardship, I really want to keep my garden, and it may be months before we know what is happening. This really is a case of justice delayed and justice denied. It is almost like legalised theft."

Colin Margerum, 60, an engineer, and his wife, Daphne, 58, designed their large detached home on Bluebell Hill, near Chatham, 17 years ago. Their three children have left home and the couple have wanted to move to a smaller house but stand to lose £60,000 if they sell. Their



The Eurostar trains that will run on the link. Some residents will lose a part of their garden to the scheme

home is on top of the proposed rail tunnel and they have been told there is no guarantee on the sub-soil. Mr Margerum said: "If the Government accept this scheme then democracy has gone out of the window and treachery has taken over."

The best we think of now is in terms of damage limitation. We feel very let down about the way we've been treated."

The Transport Department made clear the intention was to help only "a small number of cases". Details were re-

leased by Sir George Young in a Commons report in response to Sir William Reid, former Parliamentary Ombudsman, who accused the Transport Department of "unquestionable maladministration" in refusing to pay

compensation to families trapped in homes they could not sell.

Michael Buckley, the new ombudsman, offered cautious approval but said his views would largely depend on how officials operated the scheme.



### MEDICAL BRIEFING

## Breast test backs old doctors' tale

THERE is a traditional belief in medicine that women who take more exercise in their leisure hours, or who have jobs that involve manual work, are less likely to develop cancer of the breast.

A Norwegian research team led by Dr Inger Thune of the University of Tromsø has spent 14 years surveying 25,000 young to middle-aged women, investigating the effect of exercise on the incidence of cancer of the breast. The epidemiologists found that the old-fashioned doctor's advice, that exercise is anti-carcinogenic, may have been based on observation rather than science but was nevertheless sound.

In the Norwegian study the women who took brisk regular exercise at least four times a week cut the incidence of breast cancer by 37 per cent, those who had a hard manual job were half as likely to develop breast cancer as their office-bound compatriots. These differences were still evident even after allowance had been made for diet, obesity, size of family and menstrual history, all of

which are possible confounding factors.

Although no evidence was produced to confirm it, the assumption has always been that the benefit of exercise in relation to breast cancer is linked to changes in oestrogen levels. These are inversely related to exercise. For instance, women who exercise to absurd levels so upset the oestrogen balance that they stop ovulating and menstruating. It has been established in the past that there is a direct relationship between the height of the oestrogen blood levels and breast cancer. Other factors that increase oestrogen levels also increase the risk of breast cancer, hence the very slight hazard present in HRT.

Women, like men, should aim to take regular, steady, not excessive exercise. This will reduce oestrogen levels to a point at which breast cancer is less likely but the risk of osteoporosis and, if younger, infertility, is not increased.

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# BAT INDUSTRIES

## Underlying profit increase of 6%

Three months unaudited results  
to 31 March

	1997	1996
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£591m	£590m
EARNINGS PER SHARE	11.3p	11.4p

- Underlying profit rose by 6 per cent with satisfactory progress from most of our businesses. However, pre-tax profit was adversely affected by a £22 million provision for the future closure of a cigarette factory in Germany and the impact of exchange rate movements.
- Total trading profit from financial services rose by 3 per cent to £266 million, with the general business slightly ahead at £142 million and the life companies making further progress, at £124 million.
- Tobacco profit of £363 million would have risen by 8 per cent but for the factory closure provision, which brought the increase down to 2 per cent. Total Group cigarette volumes rose slightly to 167 billion.
- "As I said at the Annual General Meeting last week, if the strength of sterling persists, it may well continue to hold back our headline results in 1997. The Board, however, has confidence in the Group's ability to improve results at the underlying level, just as we have in the first quarter."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW2H 0NL.



## Bulgaria savours rare success as wine exports flow

AMID the clink of bottles and rumble of the conveyor belt, a clammy heat gathers around the production line. The nightshift at the Vinprom Rousse winery in northern Bulgaria has another two-and-a-half hours to go.

The five women on the line wearily pack the boxes, invariably for the British market. At the moment it is the Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon, but the 800 workers in this sprawling plant are equally familiar with "own label" brands — Sainsbury, Marks and Spencer, Tesco and Safeway. At an average wage of \$30 (£50) a month, they see names of faraway places about which they know little.

"Maybe in England anybody can buy wine," says Mariana Racheva, who has worked at this conveyor belt for five years. "But for us, we get given some by the company on special occasions — Christmas and the New Year."

Her friend, Violeta Atanasova, taking a cigarette break in the delivery yard, says that after nine years at the plant, life is getting harder. "If I finish at night or early in the morning, I'm scared to walk home," she says. "There are gangsters on the streets, and the money is now a big problem. Everything is becoming more expensive."

But there is little bitterness: these, after all, are Bulgarians with jobs in one of the few economic sectors that thrives. The abiding British passion for Bulgarian wine — it maintains a healthy 5 per cent of the British market — has helped state wineries, such as Vinprom Rousse to develop into major export-oriented companies, now ripe for privatisation. Vinprom Rousse produces 50 million bottles a year, or about 15 per cent of Bulgarian production, and its expansion will continue once local land-ownership disputes are resolved.

Apart from being productive and profitable — activities not common in the

Tom Walker reports from Rousse, in northern Bulgaria, on an efficient and enterprising business with a nose for making profit from the British market

Bulgarian industrial lexicon — the wine industry has also remained miraculously free of corruption. Former Communist Party bosses have sold the country's wheat illegally, even its water; its wine, however, remains in safe hands.

"It's one of our best products," says Krassen Stanchev, executive director of the Sofia-based Institute of Market Economics. "In quality it is comparable to French wines, but the price is three times less. It's probably the best example we have of a traditional, competitive product."

This means little to the women packing the boxes. For them, the recently elected Bulgarian Government is likely to be as incompetent as its predecessor. The only real difference to the Communist era is that they have both bought their flats. "I survive by the day," says Ms Atanasova, who brings up two children on her



Panov: privatisation means cost-cutting

own. "I didn't bother voting, because they are all liars." Only the new President, Petar Stoyanov, gains approval.

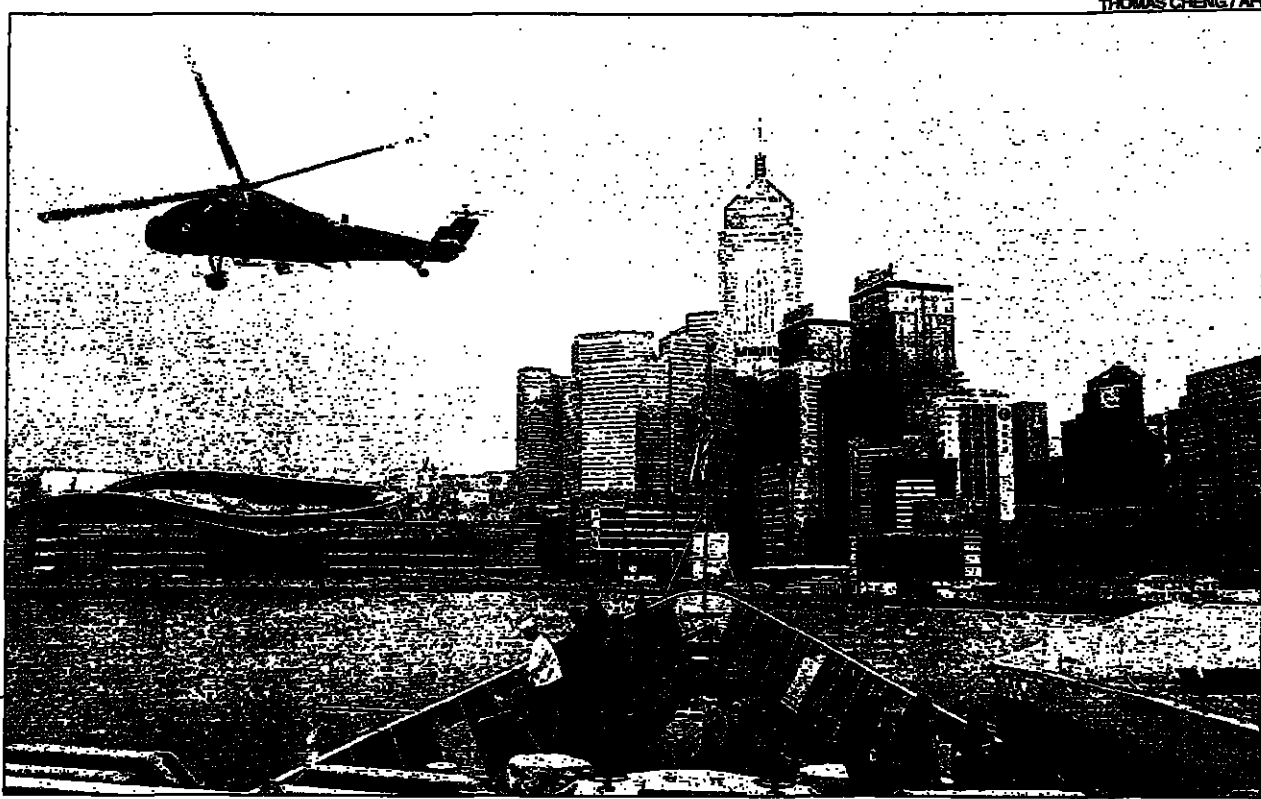
Dimitar Panov, Vinprom Rousse's production director, worries that his staff do not realise that a privatised future means cost-cutting and, unless he can plant new vineyards fast, job losses. "I think we have 20 per cent too many workers," he says in the company boardroom, where the many blends of Rousse Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay are on display.

"These people do not realise how lucky they are. We give them free transport, free medicine. But this factory is an oasis. We buy all our inputs with Bulgarian money, and we sell in dollars. We don't have to worry about money for paying our staff."

The marketing publicity from the Bulgarian Wine Guild does not quite capture the essence of the Rousse winery. It describes the terraced banks of the Danube, the hillside vineyards, the dry summers and long autumns, the black soil and ripened grapes. There is little mention of the plant's chimneys, steel "thermostabilisation" vats, the concrete flyover and workers' housing estates.

For Mr Panov, survival is about selling as many gallons of wine as possible. Sainsbury and Marks and Spencer could define their blends as they like — oaky, complex, fruity, whatever — as long as they pay. "If you turn up with a vat outside the gates I'll fill it for you. Business is business," he explains.

For Ms Atanasova also, that is all that matters. "We don't have strikes here," she says. "When you get your money, everything is OK."



HMS Beaver, attended by an RAF helicopter, docks in Hong Kong yesterday as Britain's withdrawal nears

## Colony activists told to leave

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

THE Chinese trade union leader and former political prisoner, Han Dongfang, yesterday warned dissidents sheltering in Hong Kong to go abroad before the July handover or face persecution from Beijing.

Mr Han, 54, added that the factories in China owned by Hong Kong businessmen had some of the worst records for denying workers their rights.

As one of the organisers of China's "free trade unions", those not under Communist Party control, Mr Han was imprisoned for almost two years after the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown in Beijing and was then allowed to go to the United States for treatment for the tuberculosis he contracted in prison.

In 1993, when he tried to re-enter China, he was immediately sent to Hong Kong where he has lived for four years. He said yesterday: "I am sure that after July they will come for me. I can't protect myself. They can send me to jail for any political reason."

Mr Han advised the 80 or so mainland dissidents still in the colony to leave now because China could apprehend them on criminal charges for having entered Hong Kong illegally. "And if they are arrested here there will be no reaction because they are mainlanders," Mr Han added.



Han: treated in America for TB he caught in jail

## Gingrich urges China trade limit

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

CHINA'S trading privileges with the United States depend on its treatment of Hong Kong after the colony reverts to Beijing's rule, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has said.

This week he threw his weight behind a "litmus test" proposal to extend China's most favoured nation trading status for only three to six months while its behaviour towards Hong Kong is judged. His comments came at the end of a three-day trip to Wash-

ington by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, which was intended to reassure America that Hong Kong's free markets will be preserved, as well as to pave the way for the visit of President Jiang Zemin. President Clinton declared that he was "quite satisfied" with what Mr Qian said, adding: "I certainly hope that it will reflect Chinese policy."

The Hong Kong handover on July 1 is proving a focus for

concerns about America's relations with China, the most contentious area of its foreign policy. The annual Congress vote to renew China's low-tariff trade status is usually a formality. But this year, anti-Chinese sentiment among those who see the country as America's only external threat has called that into question. Beijing's attempt to join the World Trade Organisation, which needs American assent, faces even more congressional

opposition. Critics of Beijing hope to use White House embarrassment over allegations of Chinese contributions to Democratic fund-raising to push President Clinton into taking a tougher line towards the Communist leadership.

America buys about a fifth, or \$30 billion (£18.4 billion), of China's annual exports, particularly consumer goods. In return, it supplies high technology and billions of dollars of inward investment.

## Kidnaps blamed on North Korea

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday accused North Korea of kidnapping ten Japanese nationals, and stuck to its refusal to give food aid to the famine-stricken country.

Katsuhiko Shirakawa, the chairman of the Japanese National Public Safety Commission, said North Korean commandos carried out the abduction of a schoolgirl in northern Japan 20 years ago. Megumi Yokota, then 13, went missing on her way home from school, but suspicions that she might have been kidnapped and taken to North Korea have never been substantiated.

Mr Shirakawa told a parliamentary committee yesterday that he could "say with certainty" that Pyongyang was involved. Another senior police official, Okiharu Date, testified that Miss Yokota's abduction brought to ten the number of victims snatched by North Korean agents. This is the first time Japanese security authorities have officially pinned the blame on the Stalinist nation.

North Korea has said children are dying of hunger, and recent visitors said this week that farmers were delaying burials until corpses putrefy for fear they will be dug up by starving neighbours.

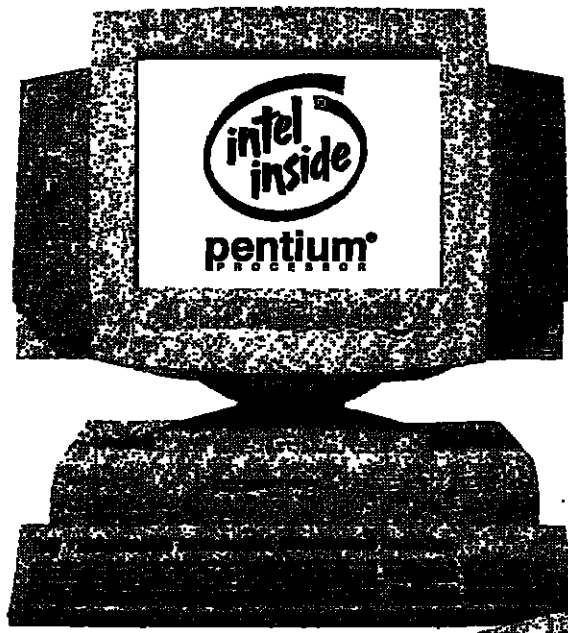
Japanese officials have speculated that Miss Yokota and other victims were taken to North Korea to help to train spies in Japanese language and behaviour. But some experts say this is unlikely, given the thousands of Koreans born in Japan who could easily be recruited.

Yasuhiko Yoshida, a former senior UN official who teaches international relations at Saitama University, said: "The only source for these [abduction] stories is South Korea, and conservative politicians here are using them for North Korea-bashing."

Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, conceded yesterday that information about Miss Yokota's abduction was provided by South Korea.

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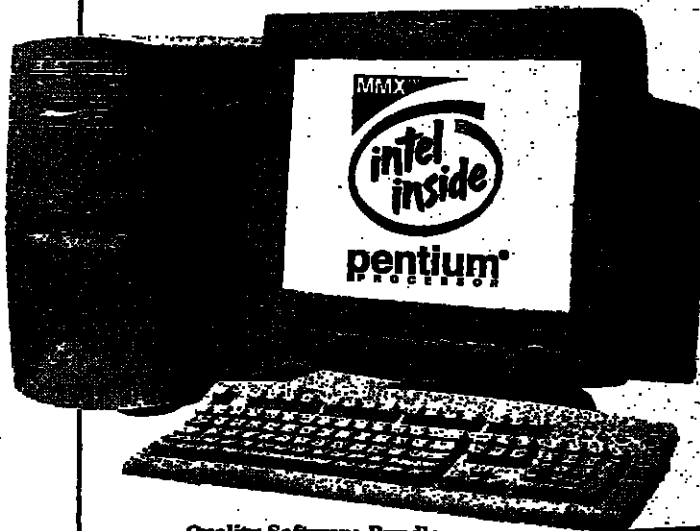
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Polisario guerrillas threaten to renew war as dispute over Western Sahara referendum drags on

## Baker embarks on UN tour to prevent new desert conflict

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FIVE years after leaving office, James Baker is again engaged in intensive shuttle diplomacy to prevent a new outbreak of war.

This time, however, the former American Secretary of State is acting on behalf of the United Nations and is attempting to broker a settlement of one of the most intractable conflicts in a remote corner of Africa. As a special envoy of Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, he has just returned from a five-day tour of the Maghreb to stop conflict erupting again in Western Sahara.

Most of the vast, barren patch of desert on the Atlantic coast has been occupied by Morocco since Spain pulled out of its colony in 1975. However, Polisario, the political front demanding independence for the region, has been waging a guerrilla war that was halted only in 1992 after the United Nations sent peacekeepers to the region with the promise of supervising a referendum on the territory's future.

The vote, however, has become bogged down in arguments over who should be allowed to take part, and

Polisario leaders have threatened to resume attacks.

Mr Baker had talks last week with King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian leaders, who for more than two decades have backed the Polisario claims. Some 100,000 Saharan refugees who fled from the territory after its annexation by Morocco in 1975 are living in desert camps in Tindouf, just inside Algeria. Mr Baker also visited these camps at the weekend.

Western Sahara, the size of England, has so few inhabitants that if they stood equidistant to each other in the country, no one would be able to see anyone else. However, it is rich in minerals, especially phosphates, and has valuable fishing off its coast.

The UN has grown increasingly frustrated by the delays to the referendum. Polisario says that Morocco has flooded the territory with inhabitants from the north, and wants only the 74,000 to vote who can prove they were included in the last Spanish census in 1974. Morocco says that many of the new inhabitants are Saharans who were forced into exile by the Spanish and have returned home.

Last year the UN voted to cut Minurso, its peacekeeping force, by 20 per cent and



A refugee from Western Sahara welcomes James Baker, the UN special envoy, on the last leg of his peace tour at Smara camp in the Algerian desert

threatened to pull out altogether unless the two sides agreed on the terms of the referendum.

It gave both sides a deadline of May 31 to hold the poll, first proposed for 1992. Each side has blamed the other for obstructing the vote. Morocco says Polisario knows that it will be defeated in any referen-

dum; the front accused Baker of trying to consolidate the status quo.

Mr Baker's mission has the clear backing of the Clinton Administration, which sees great danger in renewed conflict. Washington has given strong support to Rabat, seen as a bulwark against the spread of Islamic fundamen-

talism. With the brutal civil war in Algeria taking many lives and inhibiting Western investment, the Americans fear that Islamic radicals would take advantage of any new conflict to threaten King Hassan's Government.

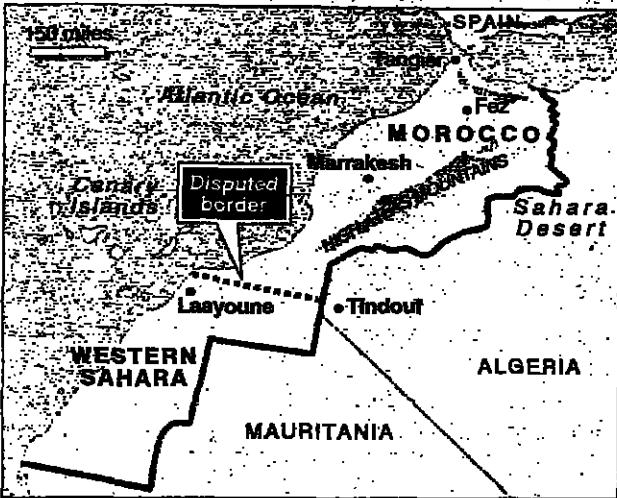
Morocco occupied the territory just before the Spanish withdrawal, sending 350,000

people south in a "Green March". Some 30 per cent of the former colony was also controlled by Mauritania, where Saharan refugees also live. Those in Tindouf live in harsh conditions.

Polisario, with few weapons and little leverage in the conflict, has accused past United Nations mediators of bias,

and has welcomed Mr Baker's intervention.

As a sign of goodwill, Polisario released 85 of the 2,000 Moroccan prisoners held in rudimentary jails. Mr Baker has now to decide whether the proposed vote and resettlement can go ahead or whether it should be scrapped and replaced with a new plan.



## Mexico announces new anti-drug unit

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Mexican Government, hoping to send a clear signal of intent to Washington, yesterday replaced its corrupt anti-drugs force just days before a visit by President Clinton.

While the announcement of the new unit, and a parallel anti-crime squad, was designed to smooth strained diplomatic relations in advance of the presidential tour next week, it provoked questions as to the effectiveness of either force.

The new anti-trafficking unit, to be known as the Special Prosecutor's Office for Attention to Drug Crimes, will be created from a nucleus of trusted agents formerly led by General Jesús Gutiérrez Rebollo, the director who in February was discovered to be working for Mexican drug cartels. All 1,100 officers who worked under him are eligi-

ble to join the new unit but, for the first time, will be subject to the most stringent background checks.

A team of physicians, psychologists, social workers and polygraph technicians has been assembled to implement the security checks. New agents will receive better salaries and benefits as an incentive to prevent them taking bribes from drug barons.

For weeks, Jorge Mandrazo Cuellar, Mexico's Attorney-General, has been involved in a clandestine programme to shake up the law enforcement establishment and to reduce the influence of the cartels on security forces.

The new, organised crime unit, he said, would bring together a series of trusted investigators not merely to combat drug smugglers, but also money launderers and arms dealers.

## Colombian peasants cash in on poppies

THE steep and remote Andean mountain slopes covered in cloud forest, just above the town of Huila in central Colombia, are proving ideal to grow the red poppies which ooze the milky opium sap used to make heroin.

Poppy fields planted in this isolated and hard to reach region, at more than 11,500ft above sea level, are the source of more than 60 per cent of the heroin that is shipped to the United States.

Figures released by the American Embassy in Bogotá show that Colombians have snapped up trade to cities on the East Coast of the US and are now vying for the European market, to become the first large-scale heroin suppliers in South America.

Andean peasants or campesinos, wrapped in their ponchos and llama-wool hats, as they tend their fields, have in the past years moved in on the trade, so far controlled by traffickers in Asia — chiefly those in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Thailand.



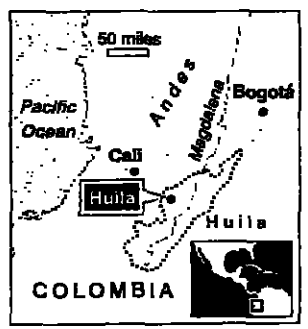
Andean villagers are taking over the heroin market, Gabriella Gamini reports from Huila in Colombia

Last year the Colombians produced about 100 tonnes of the drug, according to police figures. "Campesinos in the central highlands are becoming tough rivals for the Asians and have taken over a large sector of the US heroin market," said Klaus Niholm, director of the United Nations Drugs Control Programme in Colombia.

Colombia has traditionally been a cocaine producer. But the bigger profits to be made from heroin have boosted production. Abundant volcanic soil makes poppies thrive. "Our poppies grow huge and produce heavy heads laden with opium," said Alfonso Rodríguez, who razed several hectares of forest recently to expand his poppy planta-

tion, 100 miles above Huila. "At first we used to draw the sap and then hand it over to a middleman who would supply the trafficker. But we have now learnt how to process the heroin ourselves to sell it," he said.

"Experts from Thailand came to teach us how to do it



and what chemicals to use. But our land is better and the kind of flower that grows here is bigger, so hopefully we will outdo them soon," said Señor Rodríguez, who collects sap from his poppies at least three times a year and then manufactures the drug in a makeshift laboratory which he shares with neighbouring campesinos.

The fields are camouflaged from overflying anti-narcotics helicopters by lush forest that surrounds them. Most of the 50,000 people who inhabit Huila and surrounding mountain villages rely on heroin production for their livelihood.

Locals say that no other crop has ever provided them with the same income. They will continue with their illegal production as long as the Government fails to install basic infrastructure, like schools and hospitals in their remote region.

"This makes more money than marijuana, cocaine and any other drug put together

and the gringos want more and more of it every day," said Señor Rodríguez.

Many campesinos are leaving their mountain farms or coffee plantations in the lower areas to grow the flower in the cloud forests. Aside from generating a dependency on an illegal product, their activity is also having devastating environmental consequences.

"Opium poppies are grown in areas just below the highest forest cover, where the main rivers are born," said Señor Niholm. "Large-scale destruction of this forest is causing erosion and will also be harmful to the water of the country."

"Heroin production could destroy all of Colombia's Andean water sources over the years," he added.

Colombia's anti-narcotics police says it does not have the means to reach the remote areas. "These remote areas are outside government control and have been neglected over decades, so the heroin trade will just keep on expanding," said Señor Niholm.

## Olympics dip into gene pool

Sydney: Dawn Fraser, Australia's greatest living Olympic legend, is poised to share the genetic make-up that turned her into a three-times gold medalist swimmer (Roger Maynard writes).

In a move which many might regard as vulgar, a set of lapel badges containing the former Olympic swimmer's DNA are to be sold in Sydney. "Pin fever", the practice of collecting as many lapel badges as possible, swept the Atlanta Olympics and it seems the 2000 Games in Sydney will be no different.

Fifty million pins were sold at Atlanta, and Amino, the company which won the right to make badges for Sydney, anticipates a similar craze. The Fraser badge will carry a photograph of the woman who, until Atlanta, was the only Olympic competitor to win gold in the same event in three consecutive Games.

INDIA'S LIVING national symbol is in very real danger of being extinguished within the next ten years.

In 1972 the known number of Indian tigers had plummeted to under 2000.

The government quickly responded and set up reserves throughout the country.

By 1986 the tiger population had doubled. Unfortunately after this success

came government complacency and greed. Tiger reserves are being privatised by localisation and illegal timber extraction, whilst poaching is again rife.

On average, one tiger is killed every day. The bones and skin of a quarter of the tiger population have recently been illegally sold in the East.

Yet dealers and poachers that are caught often find themselves released

within 24 hours, free to kill again. Despite this, certain Indian tigers are being protected by Wildlife has not met since 1988.

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## Peru charges police over hostage crisis

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PERU has charged 19 police officers, including five generals, with being negligent and disobedient in a security lapse that let Marxist rebels seize the Japanese Ambassador's residence for four months.

General César Saucedo, the Interior Minister, said that two former top intelligence officers, who were among the hostages, might be jailed for their role in the events leading to the 18-week stand-off in Lima with Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels.

The minister told Congress that intelligence agents had been given a warning that rebels were planning a massive raid to take hostages sometime late last year. He also said that Japanese officials had requested, but did not receive, police reinforcements for the cocktail party on December 17, held to celebrate Emperor Akihito's birthday.

Fourteen heavily armed rebels seized the compound during the party and held 72

hostages until security forces stormed the residence on April 22. All the rebels, two soldiers and a hostage died during the rescue operation.

General Saucedo, whose predecessor, General Juan Briones Davila, resigned three days before the Government mounted its raid, said the police officers would be tried by a military tribunal on charges of negligence and disobedience. "They will be punished hard," he said.

The 19 accused include General Guillermo Boggio Cevallos, the former head of state security, and General Maximiliano Rivera Díaz, the former head of anti-terrorism police, who were among the hostages.

President Fujimori announced that the 140 commandos who took part in the hostage rescue would be promoted a rank. He also said that the two soldiers who died would be "declared national heroes".

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Fujimori, by Filochofo (Siglo XXI, Guatemala)



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# Thousands left to die as Zaire airlift begins

THE sick, the wounded and those too weak to walk are being left to die in the mud of the Zairean rainforest. Every hour another group of Rwandan refugees, some with horrific wounds, emerges from the forest. Hungry and frightened, they trudge towards an assembly point or, in some cases, collapse by the side of the rutted road.

Since being stampeded into the forest early last week by hostile villagers and armed rebels, about 20,000 refugees have ventured from their hiding places. Another 65,000 remain lost — their plight left to the imagination. Living rough, they have only dirty water to drink and little or nothing to eat.

As many as 10,000 are gathered at the makeshift camp of Biaro, 35 miles south of Kisangani, where they have been told to await transport to a transit camp near the city's airport. In the past two days, more than 2,000, those strong enough for the journey, have been transported from Biaro by train and lorry.

The well-being of these people doesn't count for the rebels, said an aid worker trying to cope with the flood of refugees leaving the forest. "All the rebels want is to be done with them. They're being treated like garbage; the rebels are just looking for the easiest way to dispose of them."

Once ferried across the Zaire river, they are loaded on to United Nations lorries. Yesterday the UN repatriated 1,438 Rwandans from eastern

Twenty thousand refugees have left the forests to be airlifted to safety, but for thousands more there is no salvation, David Orr reports from Kisangani

Zaire aboard seven flights. Logistical difficulties in reaching the refugees, and administrative obstacles created by the rebels, mean repatriation cannot take place fast enough. Joining an aid convoy which set off for Biaro early yesterday morning, I came across hundreds of sick and weary refugees emerging from the forest. Kasese camp, which just over a week ago had been teeming with about 50,000 people, is now deserted. Clothes, cooking pots and small piles of food lie among the demolished huts, telling of

a hasty and terrified flight. From the stench of death which lies heavily on the air, countless rotting corpses must be scattered over the land. We found one man by the roadside, too weak to move, and took him aboard our vehicle. He had multiple gunshot wounds to his head and legs. The wounds, deep and infected, were covered in flies.

"The [rebel] soldiers came into our camp with local villagers," said Josue Mutabazi. "There was shooting and I tried to run. But I was attacked by a man with a

machete. I don't know where my family is."

Tents set up by aid agencies at Biaro some weeks ago are full of refugees in need of food and medical attention. The sick lie in their own filth beside naked corpses. Sometimes it is impossible to tell who is dead and who is alive.

While in the camp I saw only three agencies — Unicef, Save the Children and the local organisation — at work. Attempts by many Kisangani agencies to reach refugees have been hindered by the rebels, often on security grounds.

"Friends brought me here on Monday," said Vincent Sigwambere, who has a bullet wound in his thigh. "I was in Kasese early last week when the attack came. I put up my hands and tried to surrender, but a soldier just shot me and walked off."

Outside Biaro camp, a woman emerging from the forest gave me a handwritten note: "Help us to get out of the wood, as we are very afraid of being killed."

The memories of these people add weight to growing evidence of rebel atrocities. Those not targeted directly are victims of wilful neglect by the rebels — members of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire. Their assistance now in an evacuation after weeks of stalling is a belated attempt to win back lost international support.

Letters, page 23

## Talks to go ahead

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

FACED-TO-FACE talks between President Mobutu and Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, are due to go ahead today aboard a South African warship amid fresh uncertainty and pessimism over the ability of the two sides to agree on conditions for an orderly transition of power in Zaire.

The talks were back on track last night after Mr Mobutu's officials said that they had been postponed by a day until tomorrow, apparently because President

Mandela, who is chairing the talks, had to attend a prior engagement. The South African leader will today escort Mr Mobutu to the ship off Zaire from the Congolese coastal town of Ponto Noire, while Thabo Mbeki, his deputy, will accompany Mr Kabila from Luanda.

Bill Richardson, President Clinton's special envoy, secured an eleventh-hour agreement from President Mobutu to meet Mr Kabila on the SAS Outeniqua anchored in the Atlantic Ocean.

## Democrats bow to budget cuts

Washington: The White House and the Republican-controlled Congress last night appeared within a whisker of reaching agreement on next year's budget, breaking months of deadlock (Brown Maddox writes).

The budget accord, designed to wipe out the annual government deficit by 2002, came a day after economic figures revealed a surprisingly strong growth in the first quarter of 1997, raising hopes that the deficit would shrink faster than planned. The turning point came when Republicans and conservative Democrats agreed on a package of \$135 billion (\$83 billion) tax cuts over five years. Spending on Medicare, health insurance would also be reduced by \$115 billion over the same period. Liberal Democrats have steadily resisted these cuts.

## Israel to train with Turkey

Jerusalem: Israel is planning joint marine and land defence manoeuvres with its new military ally, Turkey, which will also involve America (Christopher Walker writes). The announcement came during a three-day visit to Israel by Turkish Tayvan, the Turkish Defence Minister. The Jerusalem Post disclosed that Washington had "agreed in principle" to the three-nation exercises. Although Israeli and Turkish ministers claimed that their alliance was not aimed against any third party, senior Western military experts said it was a serious challenge to Iran, Iraq and Syria.

## 'Germans for sale' apology

Bucharest: Romania apologised for deporting tens of thousands of ethnic Germans to labour camps during Communist rule or "selling" them by demanding cash from the Bonn Government for emigration permits. "We express our deep regret and apologise for what happened," read the text of a declaration made public by Adrian Severin, the Foreign Minister. It was the first public acknowledgement that, under the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania granted ethnic Germans exit permits in exchange for cash. (Reuter)

## New Iraq monitor for UN

New York: Richard Butler, Australia's United Nations Ambassador, has been appointed executive chairman of the UN commission in charge of Iraqi disarmament, replacing Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, who has led the UN special commission, known as Unscam, since its inception in 1991. Mr Butler, 54, takes over on July 1 and Mr Ekeus will become Sweden's UN Ambassador. The UN yesterday retained its sanctions on Baghdad. (Reuter)

## Wiesel on Holocaust board

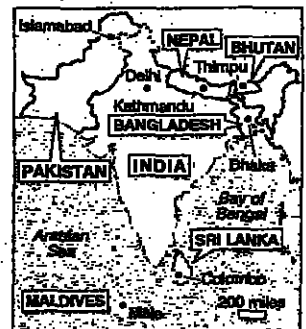
Berne: The Swiss cabinet has formally appointed three non-Swiss Jews, including Nobel prize-winner Elie Wiesel, left, to a board overseeing a Swiss fund for Holocaust victims. Named alongside Mr Wiesel were Josef Burg, a former Israeli minister, and Avraham Hirschson, of the Israeli Knesset's restitution committee. Mr Wiesel survived a concentration camp and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. (Reuter)

## Appeal for doomed horses

Wellington: The New Zealand Government is seeking good homes for 1,200 wild horses that are threatened with extinction. Nick Smith, the Conservation Minister, said he wanted to reduce the last herd of wild horses from 1,700 to 500. The animals are descendants of escaped British army cavalry horses left behind after the colonial land wars of the 1860s and Exmoor ponies and Welsh stallions deliberately released in 1877. (AFP)

## Pillion ban in Pakistan

Islamabad: Pakistani authorities banned pillion riding on motorcycles as ride-by shootings left 11 Sunni and Shia Muslims dead in three days of sectarian violence, officials said. At least 11 people have been killed since Monday, some in Lahore, capital of Punjab province, and the adjoining districts of Ferozepur and Burewala. Police blamed the attacks on militants from extremist Shia and Sunni groups. (AFP)



## South Asia 'poorer than black Africa'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SOUTH ASIA has become the poorest, most illiterate and malnourished region on Earth, falling for the first time behind sub-Saharan Africa in almost every measure of human development.

A damning report on economic, political and social developments points to vast and widening disparities of wealth throughout most of the region. It is the only area of the world where arms expenditure is rising. India has the world's fourth largest army, Pakistan the eighth.

The report, backed by the United Nations Development Programme, has been produced by the Human Development Centre in Pakistan. It is one of the most comprehensive and authoritative studies of its kind, and casts doubt on claims by India that it is poised to become an Asian tiger.

Mahbub ul-Haq, president of the Human Development Centre and principal author of the report, said yesterday that there could be revolution in India within a decade if the rich-poor divide were not narrowed. Most of the benefits from economic reforms had gone to the rich.

"The quality of social services, education, transport, drinking water and health is deteriorating," he said in Delhi. "South Asia must reposition itself or it will be marginalised by global forces. If it misses out, there will be tremendous dangers of revolution in this society. India is closer to revolution than people realise."

One fifth of humanity lives in South Asia, which contains 40 per cent of the world's poor. Annual defence spending is \$8.5 billion. India, which ranks 142 in the world in terms of per capita income, has the world's biggest arms import bill; Pakistan, ranking 119 in income levels, has the tenth biggest.

The report points to the "myth" that sub-Saharan Africa lags behind all other regions in human development. That was true three decades ago, but South Asia's average per capita income is now \$309 (£193) compared with \$55 for sub-Saharan Africa. Literacy rates are lower in South Asia, and two thirds of children are underweight compared to one third in Africa.



Hutu refugees arriving at Kigali in Rwanda after a UN flight from Kisangani

## Girlfriend of Ellen 'first-time lesbian'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK AND GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A STARK division opened up in the United States yesterday after the leading lady of the *Ellen* television series revealed to a prime-time audience that she was a lesbian, pitting the side which shrieks "Come out" against that which says "Come off it".

The bawdy book-seller, who is played by Ellen DeGeneres in the programme, breathed the words "I'm gay" to the object of her affections. The Disney-owned ABC network charged more than \$300,000 (£185,000) for a 30-second advertising spot during the episode, double the usual price.

Ms DeGeneres, who recently "came out" herself — prompting the Rev Jerry Falwell, the televangelist, to lambast her as "Ellen DeGeneres" — was applauded wildly in homosexual gathering places across the country. However, as the "coming out" episode secured its niche in American homosexual mythology, the real-life girlfriend of Ms DeGeneres admitted that the comedienne is her first female lover, thus prompting inconvenient questions about her true sexuality.

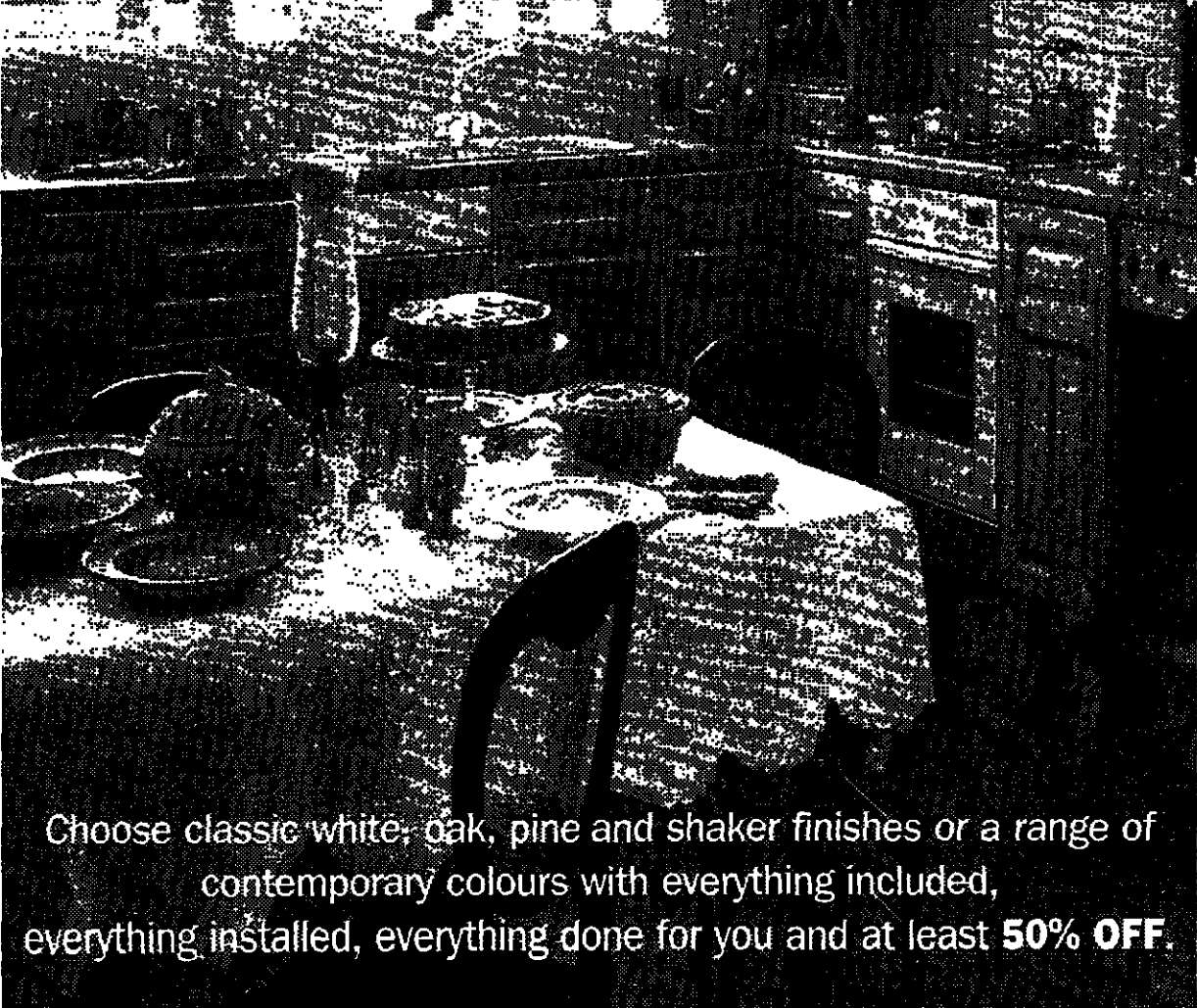
Anne Heche, who plays the female lead in *Volcano*, currently number one at the American box office, said on Oprah Winfrey's show on Wednesday: "I was not gay before I met her."

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# 'The politicians of today are not jolly enough or witty enough'

Anthony Sampson, author of *Anatomy of Britain*, has become disenchanted with the British political scene



Anthony Sampson with a photograph of his grandfather, known as "the Rai", the subject of his latest book *The Scholar Gypsy: The Quest for a Family Secret*

Five years ago, Anthony Sampson found himself at the Savoy on election night, at the memorable party held by Conrad Black. The champagne flowed. Margaret Thatcher dropped in at midnight, and the mood dramatically changed as the news carried like wildfire through the throng: the Tories were not going to lose after all.

Salisbury's "great law of the pendulum" failed to swing. Once more the Labour Party had proved unelectable. Sampson's 1992 book was subtitled *Democracy in Crisis*. There will not be another *Anatomy* in which to analyse the 1997 outcome. Sampson has been too busy writing a very different kind of book, a small masterpiece, of which more later. He is also in the middle of a magnum opus on Nelson Mandela, so he tends to compare our party leaders with a man of real vision, who quotes chunks of Shakespeare in his speeches. "Have you ever heard Tony Blair quoting Shakespeare?"

Sampson's *Anatomies of Britain*, five of them since 1961, grew out of his Penderennis column in *The Observer*. "I was lately back from South Africa (where he edited *Drum*), so I got into the habit of writing about groups of people — bishops, bankers, etc — with a rather wide-eyed view." Then he asked himself, what does it all add up to? and began to dissect the British governing classes, an acute, clear-sighted observation of men in power that revealed, for example, that half of them (Chairman of the BBC, Editor of *The Times*, etc) were Etonians and the other half (Home Secretary, Director-

General of the BBC, etc) were Wykehamists. "It was that baroque period of larger-than-life characters. Tycoons had hardly ever been interviewed before, so I could ask them very simple questions — as I couldn't now — such as 'what exactly do you do all day?' The chairman of Shell was delighted; he'd never been asked before."

But the *Anatomy of Britain 1997* would be much less fun to write. He is struck by the ruthless efficiency of the Labour campaign, making everything "so professionalised, so internalised. It would be like writing a book about the training of dentists."



## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

child by one of his devoted ladies. Once, in Anthony's childhood, the Rai came to the Sampsons' home in Hampstead, but otherwise he was excluded by his son Michael. Anthony's father, who despite his bohemian upbringing in the Welsh hills became a reformed, emotionally repressed scientist, Anthony grew up feeling there was "something unresolved" in his background.

"When I was writing the *Anatomies*, I noticed that successful civil servants seemed to be round pegs in round holes, like perfectly oiled pistons. That was something I'd never felt."

"I still cannot quite picture him among the Gypsies, but he has come to know several Gypsy families who gaze at him fondly and say: 'So you're the Rai's grandson.' His own romantic escape in youth was into the black South African world, making life-long friendships among politicians, writers and layabouts."

# THE SUNDAY TIMES THE FINAL DAYS



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# 'I felt what I was doing was right'

Seventy in July, Lord Mackay of Clashfern is to retire after an eventful ten years as Lord Chancellor. Frances Gibb reports

Lord Mackay of Clashfern visibly bristled. His job, someone said in a recent press article, was "not particularly onerous — an intelligent monkey could do it". The remark stung where others have ricocheted. Today, packing his bags after ten years as the linchpin of both Thatcher and Major Governments, he freely admits it has not been an easy task to hold the delicate ring between ministers, judges and legislature. "It depends on how you do it, of course, but in my view it is quite an onerous appointment."

Charming, mild-mannered and courteous, James Mackay is universally liked as a person. But his tenure as Lord Chancellor has prompted some of the most bitter hostility — and the worst personal abuse — directed at a Lord Chancellor this century.

He is sanguine about it. "One has to remember that if you are trying to do a public job, you can't please everybody — the idea that you can is not a recipe for action because

'He asked the hard questions about the legal system: he did not see his role as just to protect lawyers' incomes'

there are so many different points of view." Conciliatory rather than combative, his style was to listen and meet objections where he could.

But confrontation there was. A railwayman's son and an outsider to the English legal establishment, he was ready to take on their restrictive practices and monopolies: set in train an overhaul of the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme; and was the architect of the divorce reforms which ended "fault-based" divorce.

A few senior judges, mostly retired, have never forgiven him for the reforms which led to the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. Judges would cut him and his wife, Elizabeth, at parties. He was likened to Hitler, and Lord Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, told him to get his tanks off their lawn.

That act, which broke the Bar's monopoly of the higher courts and brought in "no win, no fee" litigation, was diluted after a lobbying campaign by judges and the Bar. But it nonetheless acted as a catalyst, forcing the profession to justify all their cosy practices.

Tony Holland, former president of the Law Society, says: "He was radical, open-minded. He was not bamboozled by the lawyers or judges — he stood up to them." Unlike some previous Lord Chancellors, Lord Mackay was not prepared, unwittingly, to be the legal profession's shop steward. Robert Stevens, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, says: "He asked the hard questions about the legal system, the profession, the courts, the lawyers — he did not see his role as just to protect their incomes."

Lord Mackay, 70 in July, has survived it all remarkably well. His officials, who can speak no wrong of him, testify to his kindness and consideration. The support of his wife — he lunches with her each day — has also been crucial. He has been lucky, as he puts

it, to have had good health and to be "coming out alive".

The row with the judges did hurt, officials believe, though not as much as his private clash with his church, the Free Presbyterian Church, or the "Wee, Wee Frees" (he has since left it), over attending the funeral of a Roman Catholic judge. But such crises scarcely ever showed. "He is extraordinarily self-disciplined, and does not often show his feelings," a colleague says. "He has an overriding sense of duty — and if he sees it as his duty to do something, he'll carry it through." He also had the advantage, says Dr Stevens, "of enormous energy — and is extremely well put together as a human being. He suffered more abuse than any other Lord Chancellor and bore it with dignity and without rancour."

Critics say that he was brought in by Margaret Thatcher to shake up the profession, that — as a good advocate — he just took on a brief and stuck with it. He insists the ideas were his own within the context of Government policy which he fully backed. The profession itself, he recalls, was deadlocked over sorting out its restrictive practices: Government policy required his intervention to resolve it. "Some people," Dr Stevens says, "say the reforms were driven by the DTI — but Lord Mackay believed in a need to open up these issues. They were his decisions."

There were bumpy rides on other fronts. The Government's divorce reforms became law last year, but only after a sustained campaign of opposition by right-wing Tory MPs in concert with tabloid commentators. Lord Mackay, devout Christian, family man and author of the landmark Children Act 1989, stood accused of betraying family values and of being a "closet liberal".

He did not, despite speculation, threaten to resign if the reforms were dropped. But he did want very much to see through the measures — the outcome of long consultation. He admits it was his hardest time. "If I have a policy responsibility for an area of the law, as I had for divorce, I'm determined to do my best to get it as right as I can if I can get the chance. The fact that it is difficult does not mean it should be shirked."

"I felt that what I was doing was right. I'm very conservative in instincts, and I am all for conserving marriages. But I wasn't sure that the present law did that."

Divorce is in principle anathema to him, but it was part of the law — and needed reform. "I took quite a long time coming to a conclusion about what was wise, and right. I considered it carefully. I believe it was a wise move." Some say also a courageous one. Others, though, questioned his political acumen. He has never been a politician's politician or blown his own trumpet. Some blamed him for the rumpus which blew up, but ultimately, the reforms were carried: another minister might have failed. "He was very highly regarded in the Cabinet," one source says. "He spoke rarely, but when he did so, he was listened to." He was given more than one tricky Government bill to take through: the Intelligence Services Bill and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, for instance.

But if Lord Mackay was not a politician's politician, nor was he seen by those enemies he did have — as the



Cambridge scholar: James Mackay (centre back)



Lord Mackay and his wife, Elizabeth: her support during his tenure — which has prompted some of the most bitter hostility directed at a Lord Chancellor — has been crucial

judges' friend. Lord Ackner, a former law lord, accuses him of an insidious erosion of judicial independence; of putting the administration of justice at risk by kowtowing to the Treasury.

Others close to his negotiations with the Treasury over his budget, legal aid and on judges' pay, say quite the opposite. A brilliant mathematician, he secured far more than most other spending ministers. "It's absolute rubbish to say he did not fight his corner," one says. "He did not shout about it. But that was his political skill. He played his cards as well as he conceivably could, to ensure the depart-

ment was best placed to survive the Eighties and Nineties." Lord Mackay now admits as much: to boast would have been the best way to ensure a worse deal in the next spending round. "The idea that I am a Treasury minion is one of the things I find really remarkable."

His skill as a spending minister does not square with his alleged abandonment of his role as protector of the judges' interests. He may have done his job differently; but that reflects the era. Walter Merricks, former Law Society head of policy, says: "The idea that the Lord Chancellor should just be a nice judicial

figurehead is untenable. Any Cabinet minister in recent years who appeared simply to take the side of the interests of the providers — as opposed to the consumers — would be doomed to derision." Dr Stevens similarly says Lord Mackay has "done a remarkable job not just as a minister of justice but also as head of judiciary — not necessarily in protecting their privileges, but in creating a body which has never been so strong".

It is in this, the appointment of judges, that Lord Mackay's legacy will probably be most lasting. He appointed all but one of the current law lords, all but one of 35 Court of Appeal

judges, and 83 out of 96 in the High Court. His appointments, strictly on merit (and embracing known left-wing judges such as Sir Stephen Sedley), have drawn praise across the political spectrum — the complexity of the law lords has never been so liberal.

Last year, Lord Mackay personally recommended Lord Bingham of Cornhill for the top job of Lord Chief Justice (and Lord Woolf as Master of the Rolls) to the fury of many Court of Appeal judges who had wanted Lord Justice Rose. Some accuse him of misleading the Prime Minister as to their wishes. But the ultimate choice is his; and the

two men are widely regarded as brilliant appointees who will fiercely guard the judiciary's role now and in future.

The debate still rages about whether one person can be both Government minister and head of the judiciary. Some say Lord Mackay may be one of the last to do so. He is fiercely against splitting the functions. The first full-time judge to be Lord Chancellor since Lord Simonds (1951-54), he says: "The idea that I don't want to support the judiciary is nonsense — the question is how they are best supported. The fact that the judiciary

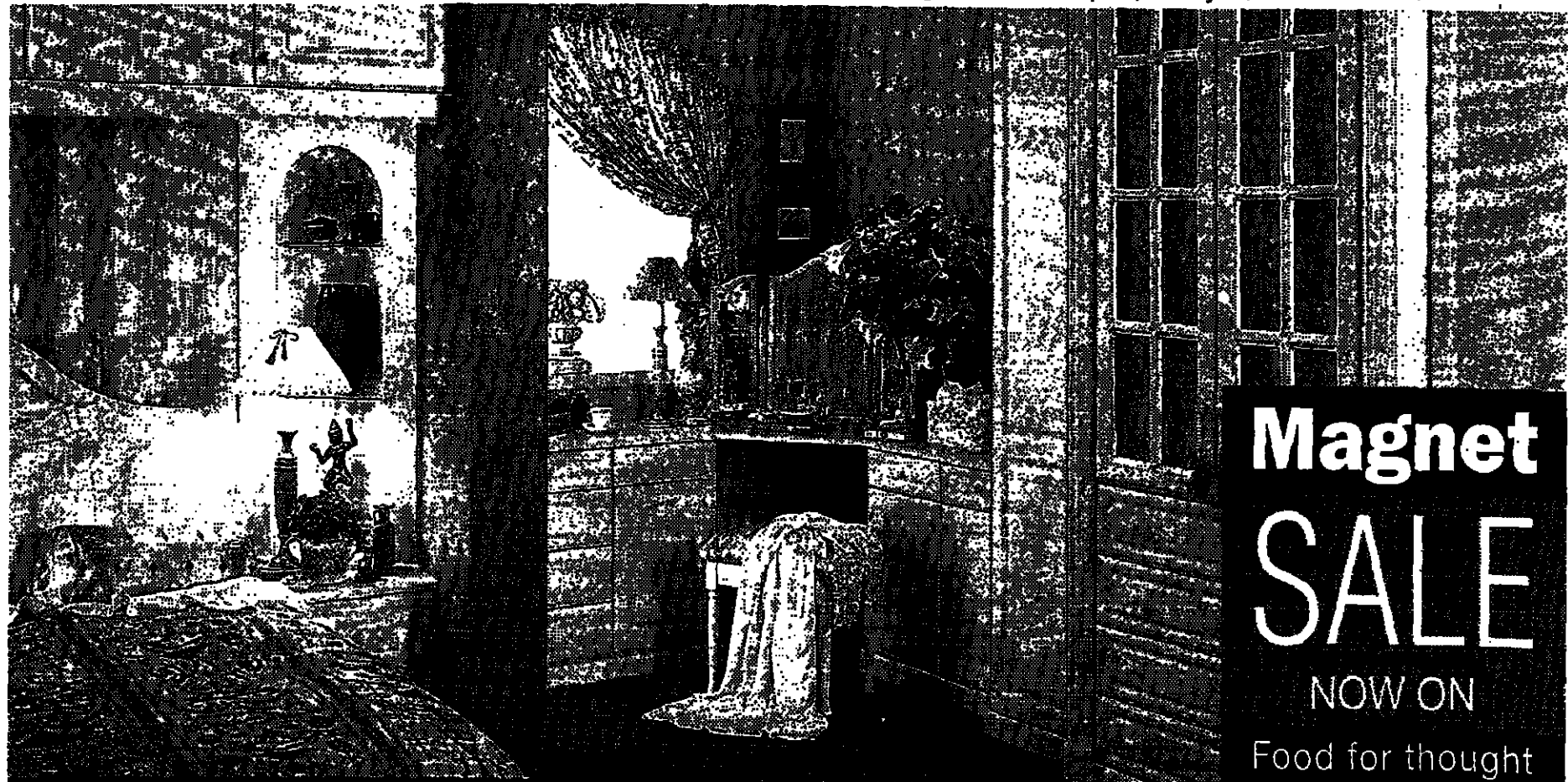
have the voice of a judge as the president of the supreme court in the Cabinet is important for the judges. If it was changed, the judiciary would suffer."

Inevitably tasks are unfinished — particularly as Lord Mackay's style in law reform is to "play it long". There is legal aid and reforms to civil justice. For the future, he hopes occasionally to sit as a law lord. There will also be walking in the hills close to his home in the Black Isle. "I will miss the job in a way, but there's a time for everyone, a time for everything. My sixties were occupied with this — my seventies will be occupied with something else, I hope."

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## Philip Howard



■ After all the cant, let us hope for a few simple but lasting words

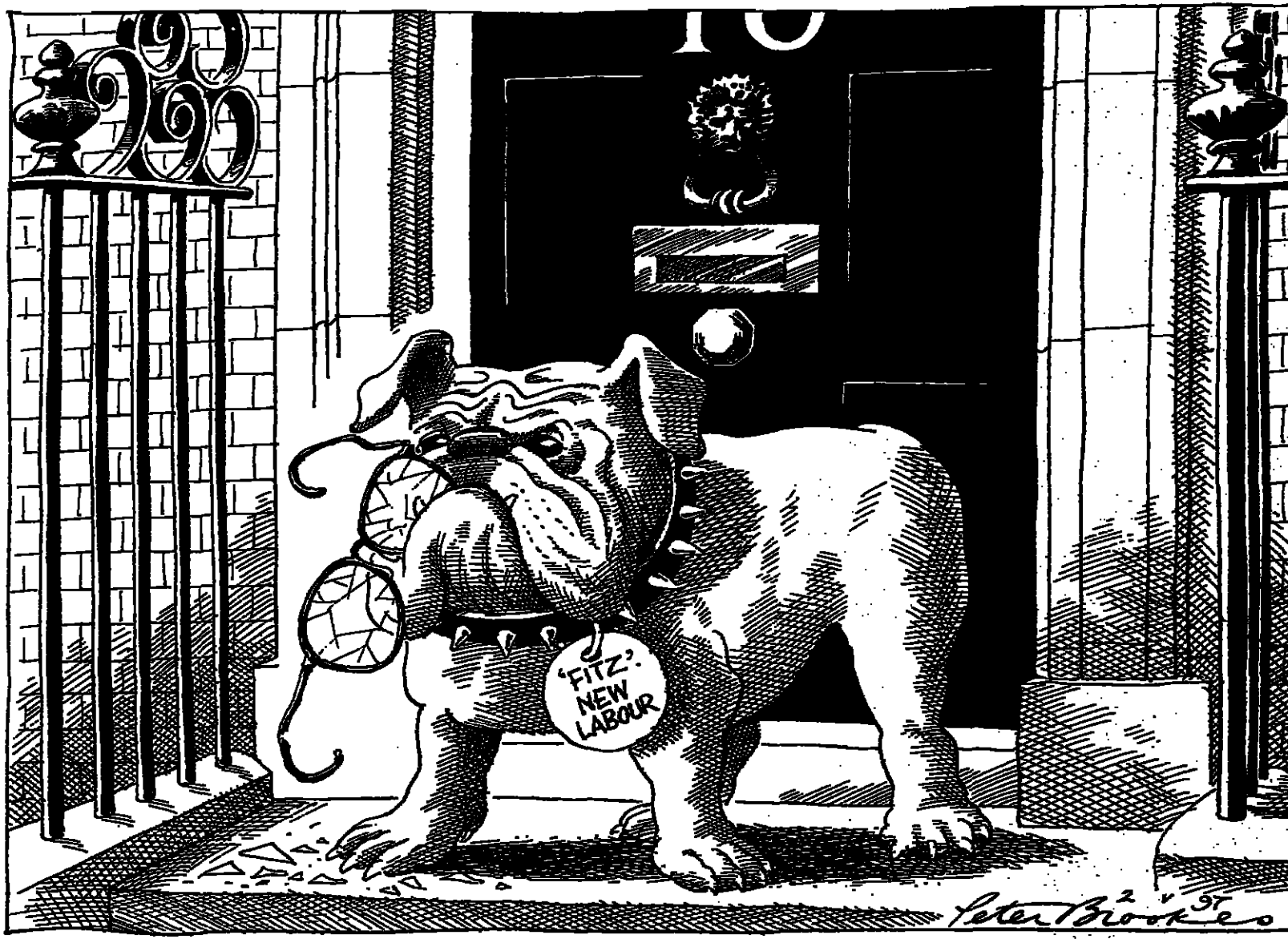
Now the hurly-burly's done, now the election's lost and won, so we can get on with life. So the television news can now shrink back to its natural length. Eccentrics other than party workers can come jibbering out of their boxes to infest the phone-in programmes. "Dear Procrustes, I keep trying to get through to Hades to check up on the underworld election results at this moment in time. But the phones here on Chios are so awful that I can never get through. What shall I do? Homer." "Simple. Go to another chios and have another try. Put two coins into demeter (in case one stys) and wait for a cress of pips. Then ask for the persepone. You should get through this way."

The state-of-the-art graphics and gizmos of election-night broadcasts costing many millions will filter down into other programmes and become part of our familiar television background. And the Prime Minister and candidates around the country can make a different sort of speech from the dogfight rhetoric of the campaign. Magnanimity in victory and generosity in defeat form a minor branch of oratory that we British think that we invented. However, sometimes the genre comes out wrong, as when triumphant Margaret Thatcher declaimed the Prayer of St Francis outside Downing Street. Some of her bitter opponents found heroic Boadicea as implausible as Churchill found Montgomery in defeat, unbeatable, in victory, unbearable.

Britons have had plenty of practice down the centuries at waffle about the strife is over, the battle done, for the whole nation rather than partisans. But the master of ironic rhetoric was Abraham Lincoln. In his first inaugural he said: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies." His second was "with malice towards none." But his Gettysburg address was mocked at the time by newspapers, including, alas, *The Times*, as not grand enough for such an awesome occasion. Edward Everett was the star speaker at the dedication of the cemetery for the soldiers who died at Gettysburg. He spoke for more than two hours in richly ornamental periods of antique eloquence.

Lincoln spoke his 270 words in three minutes. It is a myth that he scribbled his notes on the back of an envelope. The speech was drafted and redrafted in order to win the battle for minds as well as the military civil war. Lincoln *ad-libbed* the words "under God" while he was speaking. And we now recognise it as the noblest speech of modern times. The speech is quoted and the most recorded, most recently by Margaret Thatcher and General Norman Schwarzkopf. While he was working on his inaugural in 1960, John Kennedy asked his speechwriter, Theodore Sorensen, for the key to the magic of the Gettysburg address. Sorensen's answer was that it used short words. Lincoln made obsolete the flowery style of antique oratory, and used a new lean language to dignify the first modern war.

An older master of the art of One Nation oratory to bind up the wounds after battle was Horace. He was a poet not a politician, and he had made the mistake of fighting on the wrong side in the most violent sort of election possible, a conflict as terrible as the American Civil War. But the winners were clever enough to see that poets are better at the rhetoric of peace than advertising peers or spin-doctors. So they signed up Horace to write the propaganda for the new regime. And of course he wrote poetry, not propaganda. But tucked away in his Roman Odes you can find powerful lines for the pleasures of peace, praise for the new masters of the universe, and hatred of the demon eyes of giants and other warmongers. He overshoot his deadline by longer than modern advertising hacks — 14 years from commission to delivery — but he was worth the wait. His lines are still memorable and moving 20 centuries later. We cannot hope for anything of their quality or shelf-life today, nor anything as powerful as Lincoln's granite. But let us hope today for a few words of generosity and magnanimity instead of the partisan snarls and vacuous soundbites that fall to pieces as you work out what they mean. For today is the once-in-five-years-day for that rare style of sympathetic rhetoric that is seldom done well, but can last far longer than the buzz of strife.



## Redwood's wilderness

Grown-up Conservatives must not let the party be hijacked by the lunatic Right

A prominent supporter of John Major's put it vividly: "Let them walk among the ruins of what they have destroyed." The object of his fury was not the official enemy — the incoming Labour government — but his own side. He blamed the wreckers and obsessives from the Europe-hating Tory Right for the disaster which has so undermined Mr Major's Government in the years leading to yesterday's *débâcle*.

Not only do I understand his bitterness; I share it. He overstates, of course. The Tory Likud are not single-handedly the architects of Mr Major's downfall. "Time for a change" was a deadly argument, and the more insidious for being unfocused. Peter Riddell has been spot-on in insisting that after 18 years the voters' presumption was always against giving the Tories another five. Mr Major needed to shine to rebut that presumption. Black Wednesday badly tarnished the shine. And his friends have been less than adroit — his Chancellor's inexperience on Europe embarrassing — while the Prime Minister himself, by his hesitations, sometimes let infection fester.

But let us be clear about the sources of the infection. From the start John Major has faced a party within a party: a splinter big enough to act like a plank. This minority of Tory MPs has not wished him well. They protest otherwise, but I have observed them throughout and they are lying. They always wanted him to fail, and today they weep crocodile tears for his demise. Now the Likud is poised to seize the advantage for which some of them have been plotting, and which others have anticipated with grim satisfaction.

It is in the pathology of splinter groups to fight among themselves, and the Tory Right will have difficulty deciding on its manifesto and its slate. Some of its potential leaders may have lost their seats by the time you read this, as may (from another part of the party) Ian Lang. Chris Patten has no seat. Others are in the Lords. The battle for the succession may therefore be fought almost by proxy — a civil war in which some of the generals are over the water. Nevertheless, generals or no, the battle commences today. If the grown-ups in the Conservative Party are to organise, as they must, against the Likud, there is no time to be lost.

Let us define terms. I prefer "grown-ups" and "Likud" to the nomenclature of

Left, Centre and Right, because that nomenclature is almost obsolete. Men like Chris Patten have become Thatcherites in economics, but have not bought the Little Englander ticket. The Europhobes include nationalists, trade protectionists and grandee-paternalists who simply cannot be placed on the economic Right. What seems to me to characterise (if not unite) the Tory Likud is populism. Indeed (as Bruce Anderson of *The Spectator* has observed) they have all the attributes of populism except popularity.

Thus they tend to be reactionaries in domestic politics, fundamentalists on moral issues, isolationists in European politics — and hawks on defence. They will be among the first English nationalists if a Scottish parliament sours the Union. Hangers and floggers are numerous in their ranks. They tend to be against things, rather than for them. It is hard to describe the bouquet that characterises this wine, but it has an acrid and slightly nutty quality.

The grown-ups are no more united around a single issue than the Likud. There are Euroscopics among them, but they are not obsessive on the subject. This loose grouping of men and women is not disposed to view public affairs through the prism of any one preoccupation, so lending an instinctive moderation to their judgment on individual issues.

There are anti-abortionists among them, but the question does not preoccupy them. There are moral conservatives, but they would regard ranting denunciations of sexual licence with suspicion. Some have old-fashioned views on crime and punishment, but these are promulgated without relish. Some are keener than others on market deregulation, but the argument is conducted in prosaic terms: they do not evangelise. In defence and foreign affairs the grown-ups have an abiding regard for the constraints as well as the opportunities a medium-sized trading nation faces.

Let us make no bones about it: the Likud is on the offensive in the party I

used to serve, the grown-ups, who were once in charge, are politically embarrassed. How shall the grown-ups rally?

Fortunately, there is an easy litmus test, in the shape of John Redwood. His exclusion from power is a prerequisite for the return of an electable Conservative government. There are worse ways of establishing whether a chap is sound than asking where his sympathies lie in the matter of Mr Redwood.

We may summarise Mr Redwood's role by reminding ourselves that he accepted office in a Government in which he was in fundamental disagreement and under a leader whom he deeply despised. He became associated with a faction hostile to his leader's direction. When this hostility forced the leader to seek the endorsement of the whole party, he stood against him.

He became surrounded by some of the most disreputable elements in the party, who worked for his victory. When he failed to achieve it, he continued — by code, by faint praise and by silence — to undermine the man he had failed to unseat. During this election his lackeys have liaised with a millionaire who offered money to Tory candidates to make statements counter to the policy of their party.

The notion that this man could lead the Conservative Party is laughable. No serious politician will pursue it. That the British press should talk of him as a potential leader (or even kingmaker) only illustrates what too many lurches can do. If John Redwood becomes the Tory leader, he will break a record few seem to have lighted upon: no leader of the Conservative Party in this century except Austen Chamberlain has ever failed to become Prime Minister, whereas most leaders of the Labour Party have failed in the attempt. Mr Redwood would alter the first part of that equation, and grown-ups know it. They will insist he is not allowed to try.

What, however, must be further insisted upon is that no one who has

failed explicitly to exclude Mr Redwood and his acolytes from his or her team should be considered a potential leader of the party. This must be a touchstone of adulthood within the party.

And there is a second point that the grown-ups must make clear. They must be emphatic that they do not propose to leave the party. They make their stand upon a different proposition: that there are versions of the principal Opposition that do not qualify for the description "Conservative" and with which they will neither treat nor work. Any would-be leader will have to base his leadership upon a coalition of different groupings, but if he wishes to include the grown-ups in his coalition, a Likud that includes Mr Redwood would have to be outside it.

The grown-ups' own manifesto is surely clear in general terms. Although it will have a big majority, the Labour Party has crawled on its stomach to government. The supine intellectual posture that that party has had to adopt to gain access to power is, as Simon Jenkins has argued, John Major's achievement as well as Margaret Thatcher's. None of the so-called Tory Right could have won the 1992 election and despatched old Labour.

Now, philosophically crippled and on its belly, new Labour occupies the middle ground of British politics. The Conservative Party would be crazy to leave it in occupation there. It must be challenged on this central ground — not sniped at from extremist and marginal positions. If it triumphs this year, the Tory Likud will sink off to settle the wilderness: to challenge the Referendum Party, the UK Independence Party, the Far Right and the Far Left — I ask you! — for occupancy of the fringe.

This is madness. But it is a madness that seems to have gained temporary sway. Some sort of a fever seems to be gripping the party I used to respect. If John Major will not stay until the fever has passed, then others must organise themselves to resist it — and quickly. A similar fever became so endemic within the Labour Party that it has taken 18 years to shake off.

Freshly elected Conservative MPs will be waking up today after too little sleep. Fever strikes when fatigue has robbed a body of its defences, and that is true of a body politic, too. The Tory party and its MPs need the political equivalent of a good night's sleep before it even begins to think about the next five years.

## How the campaign was lost

Major has only himself to blame, says Tim Hames

So now the recriminations in Tory ranks can start in earnest. Supporters of the Prime Minister have sought to blame the Conservative Party in general and Brian Mawhinney in particular for the defeat. In truth, the party chairman had a respectable election in the circumstances. He ran the Conservative effort on the lines set out by his leader, often ditching long-developed plans when Downing Street became uncomfortable. He presented a meltdown of morale at Smith Square.

The Tories lost this election years ago, and the responsibility rests with John Major. Their slim chances in the campaign were destroyed by sleaze, Europe, and the marginalisation of their economic accomplishments. In every case, John Major contributed mightily. The sleaze row lasted far longer than necessary. This was because Mr Major's agents chose to tell journalists that Piers Merchant and Neil Hamilton would "fall on their swords". This bizarrely implied that accusations of adultery and allegations of corruption are morally equivalent. Then local associations refused, retaining their candidates, to the Prime Minister's embarrassment.

On Europe, the story was much the same. Once ministers began abandoning the "wait and see" formula, the Prime Minister had little choice but to respond, which he did with some vigour. That should have been the end of it. Instead, Mr Major's flirtation with a free vote on the euro restoked the controversy. The infamous Kohl-Blair advertisement kept the Tories in terrors they should have abandoned.

Even then, the Prime Minister could not draw a line under the matter. At his insistence, the notion of "Who goes to Amsterdam?" was placed before the electorate. The voters must have thought he was discussing his holiday plans. The consequence was that the economy — by far the best card in the Conservative pack — lost its salience. Two excellent sets of unemployment figures went adrift; impressive statistics on consumer demand and inflation slipped into oblivion. The strong economy had been the proposed centrepiece of the case for re-election. Instead, it will be Tony Blair's inheritance.

The tragedy is that these events were predictable and predicted. The sleaze factor had its roots in a series of scandals nearly three years ago. Mr Major at first refused to recognise the problem. He was driven into commissioning the Nolan committee. When the report emerged, he tried to dilute it, but was comprehensively defeated. The Neil Hamilton file has been with Sir Gordon Downey ever since. It defies belief that the Prime Minister thought he could dissolve Parliament with Downey's report still outstanding. Tory strategists discovered to their horror that the Government had made no contingency plans.

The single currency saga stuck to a similar script. For well over a year, Central Office warned the Prime Minister that his "wait and see" policy would fall apart in the heat of electoral battle. Despite that, the short-term desire to appease Kenneth Clarke — and, let it not be forgotten, Michael Heseltine — was deemed more important. Party managers believed that if Mr Major would not reject monetary union outright, he should avoid Europe entirely. The country would only be reminded of internal disagreements. Instead, Mr Major took the extraordinary line that the single currency was the "most important issue" that any government has been asked to make for generations — but would not tell the public his personal position.

The errors of the Tory campaign have duplicated the basic failings of this administration. No clear philosophy or coherent strategy has been apparent. The hallmark of this "managerial" outlook on politics has been inconsistency. Mr Major never fully articulated the positive prospectus for his party, nor did he conduct a ruthless assault on Mr Blair. His stubborn vindictiveness has seen effective performers — Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo — often excluded in favour of the Prime Minister's chosen advocates. An aggressive approach, stressing rising living standards and the dangers of new Labour, was left stillborn. This election could only be won by an appeal to prosperity and sheer fear of the alternative. Mr Major chose to fight it, as he has always wanted, on his record and personality.

Such criticism will seem too harsh to the Prime Minister's admirers. It will be dismissed as the tirade of dogmatists who insist that fundamental questions demand categorical answers. His qualities of decency and good intentions will doubtless be highlighted. But decency is not a manifesto, and good intentions are no blueprint for government.

John Major has been a disciple of the late Rab Butler, who used to observe (echoing Bismarck) that politics is the art of the possible. But pragmatism has been accepted in 1940, Britain would have ceded Europe to Nazi Germany. The same received wisdom obliged Tories to stomach socialism for three decades. Since then, a generation has been inspired by Margaret Thatcher. They believe that politics is the art of the paradigm — a process of moving ideas, not merely accepting them. To them, the purpose of power is the promotion of principle above compromise. Leadership lies in advancing a programme, not just occupying office. It is that spirit that a shell-shocked Conservative Party should now seek to recapture.

## Out serfing

IN LONDON'S Belgravia, Labour indulged in a shameless last-minute attempt to woo well-heeled tenants of the Duke of Westminster. In the final days of the campaign, it dispatched letters to leaseholders promising an "end to feudalism", with promises of "new opportunities for leaseholders to buy their properties".

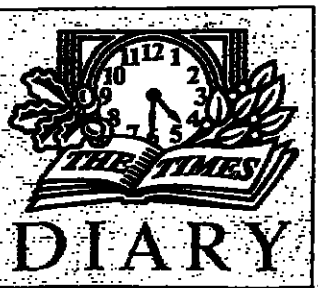
Envelopes bearing the proletarian message have dropped on doormats of the white stuccoed houses, where the leaseholders include Baroness Thatcher, Lord Tebbit, Enoch Powell and Joan Collins. Two years ago, the Duke of Westminster was so angry at Conservative attempts to reform the leasehold system on his Grosvenor estate that he resigned publicly from his Tory party. This attempt by Westminster's Labour party to canvass votes by playing the feudal card is unlikely to endear him to Tony Blair. "It's quite preposterous," says one tenant. "Are they suggesting that behind the chintz and chandeliers we're all serfs?" Another was contemptuous: "What are they on about. You'd need £1 million to buy a freehold. Gentlemen don't have that sort of money."



Belgravia belle

Yesterday the Grosvenor estate also dismissed the exercise. "It's a bit of propaganda from people who don't understand the issues."

● No surer indication of the extent of any terrorist threat can be found than the headwear of the warders at the British Museum. They have just received a memo from the head of security: "Whilst the threat of terrorist activity



remains at its present level, warders will wear caps." It goes on to say that even though the cap-wearing rule was relaxed in 1991, management still reserves the right to enforce its employees to don headgear.

## Flight plan

AT LABOUR'S victory party last night on London's South Bank, talk turned to Tony Blair's policy unit at No 10 and, more particularly, to who will run it.

I understand that Blair is looking for a high-flier, and that Bob Ayling, the chief executive of British Airways, was approached to do the job. Had he taken the job, it would have been one more nail in the Tory coffin, for they always considered Ayling to be "one of us".

are sound: he is a former lawyer at the Department of Trade and Industry who knows his way around Whitehall, while at the same time being a man with considerable "bottom" in the business world. His response yesterday to my inquiries was Delphic: "I am chief executive of British Airways and intend to remain so." He didn't however deny being approach for the post, which carries a salary of between £90,000 and £150,000 a year — some drop from his rumoured £500,000 salary at BA.

● Fleet Street has been camped outside a squat in Hackney, east



"Are we celebrating or drowning our sorrows?"

London, after my report last week that it is the home of Catherine Howard, daughter of Labour's turncoat candidate Alan Howard. In a futile attempt to shrug off the pack, the camera-shy 23-year-old has upped sticks and moved back to her mother Gillian's west London mansion.

## Who's changed?

ELECTIONS come round only occasionally, but the more important matter of publishing *Who's Who* must continue. A & C Black, the publisher, has recently sent requests for information for next year's edition to its 30,000 subjects. Included is a note requesting "when possible, future events — eg, change of appointment, retirement, change of address". Given the wholesale change after last night, MPs have been left off the mailing list.

## Flag days

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH'S enduring legacy in Westminster lies in the victory he secured in a bitter dispute over an Italian flag. It once hung outside the air-conditioned restaurant L'Amico, a favourite of Neil Kinnock's. L'Amico happens



Gorbys: state visit

to be situated below the Referendum Party headquarters in Westminster: its proudest moment was when Mikhail Gorbachev lunched there on a state visit.

In a moment of pre-election tension, Sir James's party decided that the flag gave the wrong impression and that it should go. "He complained to the council and they told us that if we did not remove it, we would face a £10,000 fine," the manager says, angrily downing a grappa. "Sir James is no longer welcome here."

P.H.S





## POWER CHANGES HANDS

How will Blair use it?

Rarely has the Conservative Party entered a general election in more miserable condition. Rarely has the Labour Party entered the contest looking more electable. Divided, demoralised and disloyal to their leader, the Tories lost the public's trust in 1992. Despite a competent campaign, they never regained it. Tony Blair, by contrast, has spent three years doing everything possible to restore faith in Labour. But some of the public goodwill towards him has been dissipated in the past six weeks.

No-one should disparage the scale of Mr Blair's achievement. Labour has won a general election for the first time in 23 years. It has done so on a moderate prospectus, embracing free-market capitalism and rejecting socialism. Its discipline has been strong, its organisation immaculate and its will to win unwavering. But in the process, the party has lost more than a little of its certainty and soul.

Before the campaign, Mr Blair was a bold leader of his troops. He took audacious gambles — such as the rewriting of Clause Four — and won them. He understood what was needed to transform Labour into a modern, progressive, governing party, and then persuaded his members, old and new, to back him. Millions of people who had rejected Labour in the 1980s felt comfortable enough to return.

But Mr Blair did not bring to his campaigning the energy and enthusiasm with which he had revitalised his party. Caution replaced daring; soundbites replaced substance. And in place of honesty came deception — on pensions, VAT and the National Health Service. If this is the new politics, it looks much like the old.

The Labour leader and his lieutenants chose the strategy that they thought would maximise their vote. Opposition parties that have a clear lead over governing parties tend to play safe and let their rivals make

mistakes. Margaret Thatcher took the same approach in 1979 and was accused of a lack of detail and of making policy changes on the hoof. But the country at least had a clear idea of what to expect from her Government: trade-union reform, income-tax cuts and control of inflation.

What does the electorate expect today? Labour's promises have been oxymoronic: change with continuity, radical centrism, better public services without higher taxes. From such a wishlist, anyone well-disposed to Labour in opposition could take heart. But governments cannot do two incompatible things at once, and the courses of action that Mr Blair takes are likely to disappoint or anger at least half of his supporters. Either taxes will remain low and the NHS will not receive the extra cash that its pressure groups demand; or Gordon Brown will be forced to raise taxes to match those heartfelt hopes. A party that managed to win the support of both *The Sun* and *The Guardian* will soon begin to annoy one or the other.

Mr Blair's big achievement has been to persuade the British people of what new Labour is not. His Government will not, he promises, give in to the trades unions; it will not raise income tax rates and it will not renationalise the privatised utilities. The voters have less idea, however, of what new Labour is. Is it liberal or illiberal? Is it centralist or decentralist? By what ideological compass will the new Prime Minister chart his course?

The principle that guides Mr Blair seems to be a kind of compassionate pragmatism. His message has matched a mood in the country. But now he has to deliver his ambitions of a more cohesive society, a sense of community and a remoralisation of the nation. In his dealings with his party, Mr Blair managed to achieve what he promised. We hope that a similar performance can be achieved on the stage of Britain.

## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Televised debates should not be avoided next time

As a ballot-fatigued public ventured to the polling booths yesterday, many will have felt that the campaign, for all its length, has been unsatisfactory. Central questions concerning the economy and Europe have not been fully addressed despite hours of television time and many columns of newspaper devoted to them. Party managers have succeeded in retaining a strategic ambiguity on matters that they would rather deal with at another time and at a distinct distance from the electorate.

To some degree this is inevitable. Politicians dislike offering public positions that limit their options later. Elections are seen as uncomfortable events best held as infrequently as circumstances permit. There has probably never been a contest in Britain or any other democracy that has seen all the important issues openly and honestly outlined. In many respects, the 1997 enterprise has been no better and little worse than its recent predecessors. Even so, to borrow a phrase, we believe that Britain can do better.

One innovation alone had the potential to dramatise this election. If John Major and Tony Blair, the sole plausible contenders for Prime Ministers, had been persuaded to meet in a set of televised debates, that would have been a worthy addition to the arsenal of democracy. At a minimum it would have been worth conducting the experiment. For that reason, once Mr Major indicated that he had dropped his initial reservations, *The Times* strongly supported the principle of debates. When the talks between broadcasters and parties broke down, we offered to host the occasion ourselves in the hope that this might remove some of the legal and partisan obstacles.

Those efforts came to nothing. All sides blamed each other for the stalemate. The Liberal Democrats threatened court action if

Paddy Ashdown was excluded. The broadcasters took this charge rather more seriously than a strict reading of the law might imply. Labour, sitting so cautiously on a very large lead, was nervous of any legal action and rapidly lost enthusiasm for the concept. Mr Blair's brave pledge that he would debate "anytime, anywhere" became "but not in 1997". In the end, only the Conservatives were enthusiastic about participation.

This should not be repeated at the next election. Present legislation is ambiguous. The BBC's statutory Charter and the Broadcasting Act 1990 (which covers the independent sector) demand "due impartiality" in political coverage. This formula has always permitted some editorial judgment, however. It has never been regarded as a rigid, mathematically exact, requirement. Quite rightly, the emphasis has been on fairness over the duration of the entire campaign. It was far from apparent that debates without Mr Ashdown would have been remotely improper, provided that he was compensated with airtime elsewhere.

The public interest would be served by ending the uncertainty that was shamelessly exploited this year. Shortly after the new Parliament assembles there will be a ballot for Private Members' bills. A short bill, stating that television companies could invite those party leaders deemed credible aspirants for Downing Street to conduct debates, would resolve the question. The broad impartiality obligation would remain intact. We would urge a civic-minded Member to embrace this issue. There should be no excuse at the next election for avoiding the cameras. It is impossible to guarantee that debates would in themselves produce more informative answers. But evasion and obfuscation would be more starkly exposed.

## LUCK OF THE IRISH

Four triumphs are enough for one country

After an unprecedented run of four victories the people have decided it is time for a change. Acclaim from abroad for world-beating numbers has been poor recompense for a public who have seen more of their money spent by the State than they legitimately expected. European factors have complicated the decision, and there are tinges of regret among patriots, but the popular mood has decided that those who won last time have to lose now. In this year's most important contest the incumbent has lost his core support. The plain people of Ireland no longer want their man to win the Eurovision Song Contest.

The Nineties have been a golden age for the Emerald Isle. Europe's fastest growing economy has also experienced a cultural renaissance. Writers, from Doyle to Deane, pop groups such as U2 and the Cranberries, opera festivals and fashion designers, have all flourished. The most conspicuous Celtic conquest has, however, been the takeover of the middlebrow territory of Eurovision.

Ignoring for an instant, and many wish they could, Terry Wogan's appropriation of the airwaves every year the Eurovision Song Contest is now greener than Galway's fields after a fortnight of rain. For four out of the five past years the Irish have won. The Gaelic success has brought Ireland renewed respect and new tourists, but at a price. Every Eurovision victor must bear the cost

of the next year's contest. Ireland has, thus, found itself in the novel position of subsidising the rest of Europe.

The millions Ireland must contribute to mount the contest inevitably arouses resentment. The unfortunate economic consequences of this flawed model of co-operation have created a rising tide of Eurovision-scepticism. The Irish, keen as they are to win, are keener to avoid the costs of yet another contest. As with other European ventures, there must be institutional reform if the principle of nations working together is not to be poisoned. It might be better simply to allow nations to bid for the honour.

If it is good enough for the Olympics, then why not for Eurovision? However, rather than adopting the tired model of bureaucratic decision-making, which sees Olympiads allocated like sweets in a kindergarten to those who shout loudest, the Eurovisionists should let money talk. Germany, which has only won once since the contest's inception, might care to mark the movement of its capital to Berlin with a boom-bang-a-bang by hosting a future Eurovision. Given how much they have invested to take over other Irish properties, the Germans are likely to pay handsomely for this honour. At least in John Bull's other island, if the market is allowed to operate the incumbent need not secretly hanker after defeat.

## 'Unbalanced' aid provision in Zaire

From Mr Hugh Jones

Sir, Aid agencies and Zaireans are on opposing sides of a struggle. It is therefore not surprising that your report, "Aid workers catalogue Zaire rebel 'barbarities'" (April 30), contains strong accusations.

Aid agencies help hungry refugees whom locals see as fugitives. However great the refugees' needs, Zaireans presumably object to lorries stuffed with goods rushing past and only heading for outsiders led by a bunch of criminals. This is especially so since nobody has been much concerned about Zairean malnutrition in 30 years or more. Rebels do not need to give orders preventing Zaireans from offering help to these visitors. It is seen as common sense not to help.

In 1995, whilst distributing aid in camps only a few metres from the Rwandan border, aid workers and the UN prevented repatriation by giving considerable comfort and sanctuary to the exiles and their armed leaders. Consequently much of the local population blames interfering outsiders for the instability which helped kick-start Zaire's civil conflict.

If aid workers were to learn that one man's refugee from oppression is another man's fugitive from justice, they may yet obtain a balanced view of local affairs and win enough respect in the region to be credible.

Yours faithfully,  
H. JONES,  
41 Rochester Avenue, Bromley, Kent.  
April 30.

## After the Lima siege

From Mr Jack Shapiro

Sir, In congratulating President Fujimori of Peru on the release of the hostages at the Japanese Embassy in Lima (leading article, April 24) you constantly refer to the Tupac Amaru as terrorists. Yet during the siege not one person died and the Tupac Amaru released most of the people with health problems. In the final stage of the attack on the embassy it is reported that a number of the hostage takers offered to surrender and were shot by the attackers in cold blood.

It is Fujimori's Government, elected on a doubtful franchise, which has inflicted on the mass of Peru's population misery and oppression of a kind similar to Chile's under Pinochet. The country's appalling poverty has given rise to revolution as the only way to prise open the greedy hands of the landowners and to get better pay from those exploiting its rich raw materials.

What your leading article calls "the new enemies of democracy" are the ordinary people wanting a less daunting and poverty-stricken life.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK SHAPIRO,  
100 Brim Hill, N2.  
April 24.

## British beef

From the Chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission

Sir, It is a fact widely acknowledged that the quality of British beef is now higher than ever before and that our standards are higher than in most other European countries. It is therefore a matter of some satisfaction that there appear to be moves towards a lifting of the European ban on the export of British beef. We hope this will be implemented as soon as possible, but recognise it may take some time.

We now find ourselves in the absurd position that, while British beef of the highest standards cannot be exported to Europe, Britain is importing inferior beef. This cannot be right. What is needed is an even-handed approach to consumer protection across the Community.

The rest of Europe should follow Britain's lead. Therefore, immediately after the election, we will be making strong representations to the Minister of Agriculture, whoever it is, that the rest of Europe adopts the high standards of beef production which Britain has put in place. European consumers, including British consumers, are entitled to expect nothing less.

D. T. Y. CURRY,  
Chairman,  
Meat and Livestock Commission,  
PO Box 44,  
Winterhill House, Snowdon Drive,  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.  
April 25.

## Right priorities

From Mrs Glynis Daniels

Sir, In conversation with a local resident earlier this week, I asked: "Well, who do you think will win on Thursday?"

"Thursday?" he replied with a blank look. "Middlesbrough haven't got a game on Thursday."

Yours etc,  
GLYNIS DANIELS,  
Lea Close, High Lane,  
Malby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.  
May 1.

Sport letters, page 49

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Minarets among the Oxford spires

From Mr A. C. de Winton

Sir, There are no doubt those who feel about the proposed college for the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in the same way that a Muslim would feel about the high profile construction of a Christian church in Mecca (report and leading article, "Dreaming minarets", April 28).

Not so much a "bridge" of understanding — more a bridgehead.

Yours faithfully,  
A. C. DE WINTON,  
26 Cavaye Place, SW10.  
April 28.

From Dr D. G. Browning, Registrar, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

Sir, The trustees of this Centre share fully your opinion that the Western and Islamic worlds have much to learn from each other and that Oxford provides a conducive setting for this much needed dialogue.

The Centre, which was established 12 years ago as an associated institution of Oxford University, began life in a single room with few funds, relying entirely on the commitment and efforts of a small group, at Oxford and overseas, and on individual generosity.

Today — thanks to funding support from, in particular, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf, Brunei, Malaysia and the Maldives, from Western sources such as the Leverhulme Trust and the British Council, and from donations by individuals in more than 20 countries — the Centre is an established, independent meeting-point for academics from all over the world.

We have always intended to bring together our resident and visiting scholars into a purpose-built collegiate community. To regard our proposed building simply as a mosque would be as misleading as describing an Oxford college — with its library, chapel, dining-room and teaching rooms — simply as a church.

With a site made available by agreement with Merton and Magdalen col-

leges, and with the architectural inspiration of Professor Abdel Wahed al-Wakil, we propose to create a building which, we believe, unites the best features of Oxford and Islamic design and is in harmony with the architectural heritage of this ancient city.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BROWNING, Registrar,  
Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies,  
George Street, Oxford.  
April 29.

From Mr L. Khongwir

Sir, I read about the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies with interest. I now hope that King Fahd will be gracious enough to grant permission for the building of the first Christian church in Saudi Arabia.

Yours sincerely,  
L. KHONGWIR,  
The Newark Hospital,  
Newark, Nottinghamshire.  
April 28.

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, Dreaming minarets at Oxford? College architecture combining Gothic and Moorish? A case can be made that Cambridge pioneered this nearly five centuries ago. The towers at each corner of King's College chapel were until recently the nearest things in this country to minarets.

They were built in 1513, at a time when the Anglo-Spanish alliance was strong, and their design may derive from the cathedral minarets of Moorish Spain (very likely the magnificent stone heraldry that decorates the building also derives from Spanish tradition). Each is equipped with a lofty platform from which, in the event of a wholesale local conversion, the muezzin might yet summon the faithful.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM CHAINEY,  
35 The Albemarle,  
Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex.  
April 28.

## Lottery and charities

From the Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, The inaccuracy in accounts of how much of Camelot's revenue from scratchcards goes to charity (letters, April 24) merely compounds widespread public confusion over the way lottery proceeds are allocated, and the impact the lottery is having. Research by NCVO has indicated that the public believe that for every pound they spend on the lottery, 19p is going to charities.

Between 1993 and 1995 charities suffered a 6.6 per cent drop in donated income from the public, which has had a notable impact on smaller charities, or those which rely heavily on more traditional forms of fundraising, and are often less able to diversify their income streams.

The drop in donated income to charities is clearly not a case of "com-

passion fatigue". Respondents to a recent MORI poll indicated that for every lottery ticket or scratchcard sold, they would like to see 32p being earmarked for charities.

Many charities have benefited from the arrival of the National Lottery, but many more have yet to do so. What is needed is greater transparency and openness about the distribution systems of the lottery, together with a commitment from the next Government that the moneys made available once the Millennium Commission is disbanded are distributed in such a way as to address the funding difficulties facing the voluntary sector since the lottery's launch.

Yours faithfully,  
STUART ETHERINGTON,  
Chief Executive,  
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,  
Regent's Wharf,  
8 All Saints Street, N1.  
April 24.

## Lottery and luck

From Mrs F. A. Read-Powell

Sir, Before Mr Blair has an opportunity to get his hands on any lottery money (reports, April 24) I hope he will seriously consider altering the formula of the game. For punters like me, who chose to stay with a fixed set of numbers and then become fearful of missing a week in case their numbers come up, it has all become far too addictive.

Since the first few months I have managed to resist from buying tickets thereby "gambling" every week that my "chosen" numbers won't come up.

The organisers know only too well.

## No-smoking rebel

From the Managing Director of Connex South Central

Sir, Whether Peter Boddington, who says he will continue to ignore Connex South Central's total no-smoking policy, goes to prison is not "up to Connex", as he asserts (report, April 28, earlier editions).

That possible eventuality rests first with Mr Boddington himself, if he chooses to ignore a policy supported by 86 per cent of our customers, smokers as well as non-smokers; and secondly with the High Court, which will take what action it believes necessary should Mr Boddington continue to smoke on our trains, following the injunction to which your report refers.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF HARRISON-MEE,  
Managing Director,  
Connex South Central Ltd,  
Stephenson House,  
2 Cherry Orchard Road,  
Croydon, Surrey.  
April 28.

## Pink peril

From Ms Katharine Sinderson

Sir, So Leander have bowed to the "monstrous regiment" (report, April 28). Next stop MCC.

Yours faithfully,  
KATHARINE SINDERSON,  
15 Cleve Crescent,  
Grimsby, Lincolnshire.  
April 29.

I'm sure that what draws the public week after week is that sickly fear of losing. In my opinion, as it is played at the moment, it is not a true lottery. If one could only buy pre-numbered lottery tickets, like those sold in many other countries, this element of superstition and consequent addiction would disappear.

I believe that the drop in sales of scratchcards (letters, April 24), where this choice does not apply, proves my point.

Yours very sincerely,  
F. A. READ-POWELL,  
10 Westbrook Court,  
Grosvenor Street, Bolton, Lancashire.  
April 24.

## Radio waves

From Dr J. Roberts

Sir, You report Lord Hope of Craighead as saying, with regard to Canary Wharf ("Viewers have no right to watch TV, say law lords", April 25), that because television and radio signals were invisible, it would be impossible for developers to know of their existence before putting up a building. Oh really?

Surely most people understand that the space around us is permeated with signals of this type — how else could televisions, radios, mobile phones, etc. work? Also any engineer knows that a metal-clad building may have a significant effect on radio waves.

But perhaps his Lordship is implying that we must be able to see something before we know of its existence. Or more generally, we can only have knowledge of things experienced through our senses. Well, what about our extended senses? If we can use these to detect radio galaxies and quasars billions of light years away, surely it is possible to know about the presence of radio waves in the vicinity of a projected building.

I would have continued to speculate on Lord Hope's opinions but, having never seen him, I am, of course, ignorant of his existence.

Yours faithfully,  
J. ROBERTS,  
Wail Farm,  
Elmslet, Ipswich, Suffolk.  
April 25.

Business letters, page 31

## Problem pupils in primary schools

From the Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers

Sir, Indiscipline in primary schools ("Problem pupils must be tackled young, say heads", report, April 28) calls for early intervention to deal with disruptiveness before children transfer to secondary school. What children need is more individual attention.

Working in classrooms under the teacher's guidance, growing numbers of carefully matched volunteers are giving two to 30 hours a week as mentors, role models and friends. In one term, by giving an individual pupil one hour a week, such volunteers can raise reading levels by a year.

Local communities are rich in adults ready to share their time and experience to raise confidence, self-esteem and knowledge. Children benefit substantially and teachers welcome the support. CSV is responsible for over 9,000 undergraduates, employees and local residents, including older people, who help in schools.

President Clinton has successfully appealed for a million Americans to raise literacy in schools. The UK needs similar leadership.

Yours faithfully,  
ELISABETH HOODLESS,  
Executive Director,  
CSV,  
237 Pentonville Road, N1.  
April 28.

From the Headteacher of Eversley County Primary School

Sir, How true it is that "problem pupils must be tackled young". Many primary teachers have high levels of success at modifying difficult behaviour and supporting children with emotional problems — but this takes time and resources.

This year in Essex each primary pupil receives, on average, about half the funding of secondary school pupils. In consequence primary schools are having to make classes larger. Realistically sized classes would help us to meet the expressed aim of secondary head teachers of tackling disruptive pupils at an age when their behaviour can be moderated.

I hope the General Secretary of the Secondary Heads Association will be backing the call for an equitable funding formula, so that younger pupils receive the same equal entitlement as their older brothers and sisters.

Yours faithfully,  
CATHERINE GILMORE,  
Headteacher,  
Eversley County Primary School,  
Crest Avenue,  
Pitsea, Basildon, Essex.  
April 28.

## Yellow lines

From Councillor T. G. Davies

Sir, Indeed it was "sweet revenge" for many when poor George Musgrave — the inventor of the yellow line — was fined £20 for parking on one (report, April 25).

The environmental harm created by yellow lines, especially double ones, is inestimable. They are as injurious to the appearance of our built environment — especially our historic towns — as overhead lines are to our landscape.

The "gentle shade of primrose" with which the Department of Transport will now permit local authorities to replace the familiar shocking yellow (report, May 1) is a step in the right direction. But the whole principle of painted lines on the road needs to be reviewed.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM DAVIES,  
Llys Penydarren,  
Penydarren Park,  
Merthyr Tydfil.  
May 1.

From Mr Tony Fuller

Sir, The Department of Transport has got it wrong again. Put the lines where you can park; they will then be hidden from view when the cars are parked.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY FULLER,  
Beech House,  
Worcester Road,  
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.  
May 1.

## Victory anthem?

From Mrs Veronica Scott

Sir, Surely the best music for even-song on election day (letters, April 22, 23, 24, 28, May 1) should be *The strife is o'er, the battle done*, which would suit whichever party wins.

Yours faithfully,  
VERONICA SCOTT,  
Secretary, St Paul's Church,  
Knightsbridge,  
24 Addison Avenue, W11.  
May 1.

## First past the post

From Mr A. J. Saunders

Sir, May 1 be the first to complain that the Government's handling of matters is intolerable and demand that the minister responsible resign?

Yours etc,  
A. J. SAUNDERS,  
15 Silchester Way,  
Westlea, Swindon, Wiltshire.  
May 1.

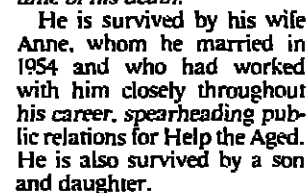






# SIR ALAN ROTHNIE

## HUGH FAULKNER



# ALPARSLAN TURKES

**Alparslan Turkes in the dock during his 1980 trial on charges of murder and instigating civil war**

## PERSONAL COLUMN

the concessions during the war" and the offer of the trading trades as an

## ON THIS DAY

**May 2, 1925**

Over the last 70 years average weekly hours of work for manual workers appear to have fluctuated: in 1960 they were 48.0; in 1992, 44.5. Buchanan's Bill was lost, 223 to 128 votes.

cannot be harmonized by any general regulations; and that fools from Westminster should not rush in where the angels of industry have to walk as delicately as Agag. The proof was that in America the minimum of legislative interference produced the maximum wages, the shortest hours, and the highest output. Moreover the Bill itself contained so many contingent and controversial exceptions that it was unworkable, and could only be dangerous when the state of industry constituted a national emergency.

SIR WILFRED SUGDEN produced some clear figures to support this view. German

shipyards were working 54 to 64 hours and Dutch 55% hours, per week for much lower wages than those paid in British shipyards. The Bill was also unnecessary because nearly all British industries were working under 48 hours — e.g. ship-building 40.98 and engineering 44.7.

LORD HENRY CAVEDISH-BENTINCK urged that if the Bill made no little material difference, it would not pass if to achieve it would mean that the 48-hour limit would already working 48 hours against the unfair competition of those who were not. The best speech, however, was that of CAPTAIN LODGE, who thought the Bill inopportune, but urged we should not throw up our hands in despair at foreign competition, but rather negotiate with foreign countries to secure better conditions. MR. MACQUISTEN welcomed the Bill, but thought it would be a hard work as long as they wanted to, particularly the miner.

SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND took a strictly political and industrial view of the matter. He could not accept a Bill which cut across a large number of existing agreements. The Washington Convention was another example of the necessity to be ready to hold another conference with foreign Governments and see how the varieties of national interpretation could be harmonized.

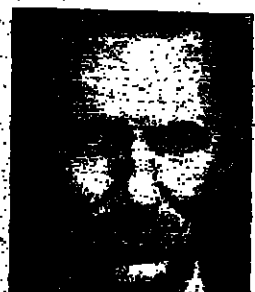






# THE TIMES

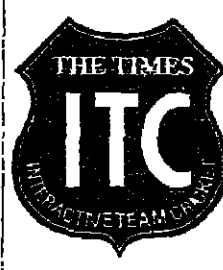
# 2 TODAY



# Anatole Kaletsky sets out Labour's sterling challenge PAGE 31



**Severely disabled  
and on his way  
to a law degree  
PAGE 43**



Select your  
team and  
chase £10,000  
**PAGES 44-52**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
50, 51**

B

**By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT**

ING Barings already owns 25 per cent of Dillon Read and the US partners have an option to buy back

At the time of the Barings crash in February 1995, the UK merchant bank owned 40 per cent of Dillon Read but ING was persuaded to sell

when the mergers and acquisitions boom on both sides of the Atlantic appears to have peaked, could sway the deal in favour of the Dutch group.



**Asil Nadir, who fled to north**









**Asil Nadir, who fled to northern Cyprus four years ago, says he intends to go to Turkey**

**BY JASON NISSÉ**

Mr Nadir had extensive business interests in Turkey before the collapse in 1990 of Polly Peck International, the fruit-to-hotels group he ran.

## STOCK MARKET

INDICES		
FTSE 100 .....	4445.0	(+9.0)
Yield .....	3.84%	
FTSE All share .....	2138.0	
Nikkei .....	18275.31	(+24.21)
New York:		
Dow Jones .....	6975.48	(-32.51)
S&P Composite .....	798.63	(-2.81)
 US RATE		
Federal Funds .....	5%	(5%)
Long Bond .....	95%	(95%)
Yield .....	6.91%	(6.99%)
 LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank .....	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
future (Jun) .....	110 1/2%	(110 1/2%)
 STERLING		
New York:		
\$ .....	1.6240	(1.6240)
London:		
\$ .....	1.6240	(1.6258)
FF .....	1.7508	(2.8026)
FF .....	9.6274	(9.4707)
FF .....	2.3678	(2.3678)
SF .....	205.06	(205.06)
\$ Index .....	99.7	(100.1)
 DOLLAR		
London:		
\$ .....	1.7223	(1.7313)
FF .....	8.0805	(5.8315)
SF .....	1.4770	(1.4735)
\$ Index .....	129.58	(127.12)
\$ Index .....	105.9	(106.4)
Tokyo close Yen 127.41		
 NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jul) .....	\$18.45	(\$18.50)
 GOLD		
London close .....	\$340.90	(\$340.55)

Mercury Asset Management, the fund manager, has built up a substantial stake in Alliance & Leicester. Citywatch, a research group, has identified that MAM has bought a 6.26 per cent interest after analysing little more than half the shares sold. Citywatch also believes that other institutional shareholders have built up stakes of less than 2 per cent. Shares in the former building society rose 1p to 574p.

**Market report, page 30**

**BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM**

Killik, echoing a similar statement on Wednesday by Schroders, another investor, emphasised that it had not seen any confidential CMS documents.

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

# Pep co

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

A&L has returned 8 y applications received to

**BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM**

free and not in annual £9,000

**FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY**

cluded in an individual's  
Pep allowance. The  
warning that it wants  
by May 27, three days  
from deadline to give

information on the Pep from  
recently asking for a share certifi-  
this will prevent them from  
trading the shares to a non-

**BY GAVIN LUMSDEN**

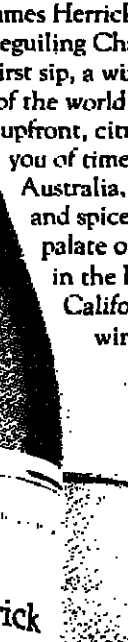
However, thousands are failing to sign the transfer form on the back of the certificate, or are incorrectly completing Pep application forms.

Any delays could cost shareholders the best benefits of transferring windfall shares. Under Inland Revenue rules, the transfer has to be completed within 42 days of flotation if it is to be

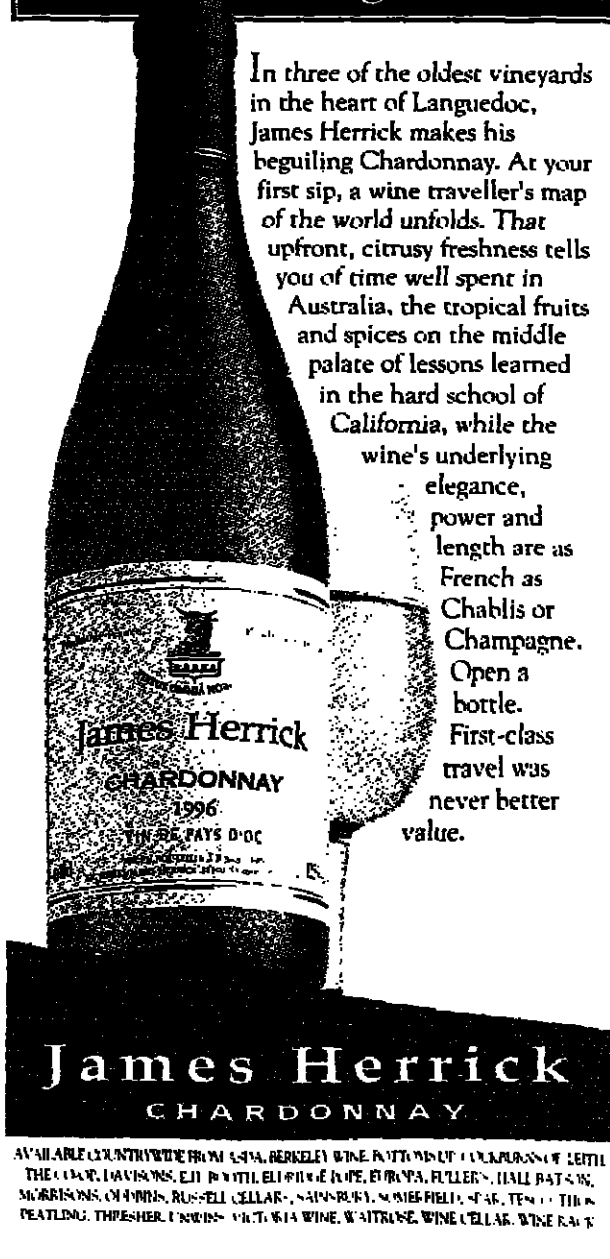
under fire from rival Pep managers over the single company Pep it intends to offer to its 8.5 million members when it floats in June.

The Halifax denied it was trying to limit its ACT liability. Shares would be paid only in exceptional circumstances and to the benefit of shareholders.

Enjoy Mediterranean  
sunshine, and exotic  
fruits and spices without  
leaving home.



In three of the oldest vineyards in the heart of Languedoc, James Herrick makes his beguiling Chardonnay. At your first sip, a wine traveller's map of the world unfolds. That upfront, citrusy freshness tells you of time well spent in Australia, the tropical fruits and spices on the middle palate of lessons learned in the hard school of California, while the wine's underlying elegance, power and length are as French as Chablis or Champagne. Open a bottle. First-class travel was never better value.





ELECTION '97

# Issues the new government must address

AN overflowing in-tray awaits the new government. Issues that had been put on hold during the election campaign must now be resolved. In every area of business, the new administration will shortly be making its impact, determining whether to allow massive takeover bids to proceed or founder, who should pay for government initiatives and, crucially, how relationships with Europe should evolve.

**INTEREST RATES:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer is scheduled to meet Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, at the monthly monetary meeting next Wednesday. Should he accede to Mr George's repeated calls for

a rate increase, and if so, how much? Labour has promised a mini-budget in July, and any rise now would have implications for that. Should an incoming Chancellor instead heed calls from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the Institute of Fiscal Studies for tax rises rather than increased interest rates?

**PENSIONS:** The big issue that surfaced during the election must now be near the top of both parties' action lists (see below).

**HOUSING:** Moves to establish tribunals to resolve disputes between leaseholders and landlords have been on hold. Final

orders putting the tribunals in place were not laid before the election. Labour has said it would institute a more fundamental reform of leasehold law, which would require more Parliamentary time.

**COMPETITION POLICY:** Outstanding Monopolies Commission inquiries into the Bass takeover of Carlsberg-Tedley and P&O's link-up with Stena need a government ruling. Other inquiries, including planned insurance mergers and an investigation into the pricing of domestic electrical goods are also in need of resolution. Both parties have indicated that competition policy is in need of reform. Labour had been keen to merge the Office of Fair Trading and the

Monopolies and Mergers Commission but now other options are being examined by a team led by Lord Bore.

**UTILITIES:** Labour plans to alter the legal regulatory frameworks that govern the utilities. The aim is to change the objectives of the regulators so as to give as much weight to consumers' interests as to the need to promote competition.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** Labour will have to move fast to put into place provisions that would allow BT, Cable and Wireless and the other cable companies to be freed from restrictions on supplying entertainment services on their networks. **MEDIA:** There is EU pressure to

harmonise media tax rates, which would mean adding some level of VAT to cover prices of newspapers and magazines.

**LATE PAYMENTS:** Demand from small organisations for a statutory right to interest on late payments is strong. Labour has promised early legislation on the issue.

**DEREGULATION:** A reel of red tape remains to be cut. Labour has said it would retain the task force that was set up by the Conservatives.

**EUROPE:** Debate during the election centred on the single currency, but ministers are also faced with the need to

further the single market in terms of trade. With Britain taking over the Presidency of the European Union next January, there will be pressure for ministers to ensure that EU single market directives are fully implemented, and that "unfair" state aid or hidden barriers to cross-border trade are removed. The CBI, under leader Adair Turner, has already agreed to form a working group to aid progress towards a genuine single market.

**ENERGY:** A coherent energy policy is an early requirement for the new administration. Full competition in the electricity and gas industries is supposed to be achieved by next April.

## Party in power must give clear lead on retirement schemes

ACRIMONIOUS disputes over pensions marked the final weeks of the election. But both parties' plans to improve the nation's provision for retirement remained ill-defined. Labour was easily able to attack the Tory plans for privatisation of the basic state pension as formulated by Peter Lilley.

The new Government must now tackle the problem of the low level of pension savings among millions of workers and act to resolve finally the personal pension scandal.

Although the British have £650 billion invested in company pension schemes, more than the rest of Europe put together, four out of ten adult workers have no pension provision other than the basic state pension.

Personal pensions launched in 1988 are designed for the self-employed and those in jobs without a pension. But their reputation has been stained by the mis-selling scandal. Between 1989 and 1992 some 500,000 workers were wrongly advised by insurance company salesmen to leave their company pensions with superior benefits for personal pensions of lesser value.

The new Government must put pressure on insurance companies, company schemes

### PENSIONS

and the investor watchdogs to act together to ensure that long-delayed compensation is paid to victims.

It should also turn its attention to the 5 million other workers who left the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps) for personal pensions with the inducement of a small National Insurance rebate. More than 3 million do not add their own contributions to the rebate. The result is that those on low earnings receiving tiny National Insurance

rebates can expect meagre pensions. The Government should compel insurance companies to contact each of these customers to inform them of the low level of their entitlement.

Personal pensions have been heavily criticised for their high charges, with as much as £1 out of every £4 invested going to pay commission and management charges. These deductions reduce the final payout.

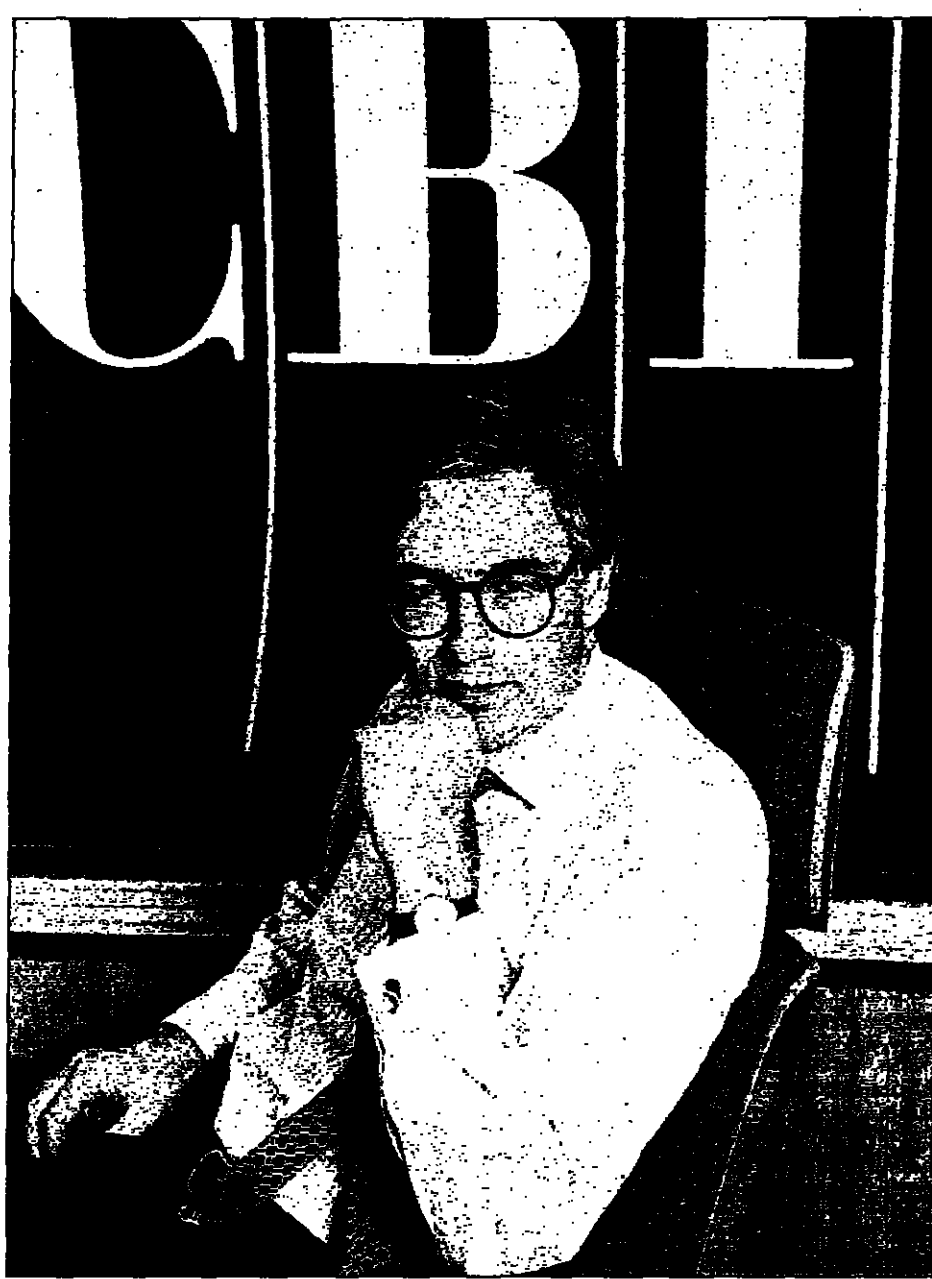
Over the last year low-charge plans have been launched by a number of groups but comparing the charges remains difficult, particularly for those attempting to arrange a pension without professional guidance. The Government must ensure that the disclosure of charges is further standardised.

In one recent example, Virgin Direct and Fleming publicly rowed over whose personal pension charges were lower. At the root of the argument lay the different treatment of charges for various types of investments. The Fleming plan, being based on investment trusts, was covered by a different charging regime than the Virgin scheme.



Lilley: privatisation plan

ANNE ASHWORTH



Adair Turner, head of the CBI, wishes to see a genuine European single market

## Windfall tax at centre of Labour's plans

THE windfall tax has been central to the election debate. It is crucial to Labour's strategy, providing the funds for its plans to fund a jobs programme for the young and long-term unemployed.

As Chancellor, Gordon Brown would aim to make the tax the centrepiece of his first Budget, and would be levied on the "excessive" profits of a range of privatised utilities, which have all had detailed discussions with Labour as to how it might operate.

The issue of a minimum wage is a major divider of the parties. Labour has pledged to ask business leaders to join a new Low Pay Commission to help it to set the level for its proposed statutory national minimum wage.

As well as helping to alleviate low pay — especially for women — Labour insists that a national minimum wage, set sensibly, will lead to reductions in the £4 billion now spent on in-work benefits like Family Credit, which ministers believe act as a taxpayers' subsidy to employers paying very low wages.

The Government would not be bound by the recommendations of the LPC since the actual setting of a legal mini-

mum wage would be for the Cabinet to decide, though they accept that rejecting the commission's advice would lead to a loss of its credibility. But if a figure could be agreed, it could be included in the next Queen's Speech for implementation in 1998.

The Government is likely to be facing tough demands from the public sector for pay increases, but Tony Blair has indicated that he would resist.

Early indications of union pressures will come from the annual conferences of some key trade unions, including the FBU, firefighters in the week of the Queen's Speech, the

PTC civil servants the week after next in Blackpool, and that of Unison, which opens in Brighton on June 9.

Labour has said it would not repeal much of the Conservatives' legislation on unions, including pre-strike ballots, but it would favour the setting of minimum employment standards by companies and their workforces acting in partnership. In support of this it would make early moves to sign up to the European social chapter, setting down some minimum job standards.

PHILIP BASSETT

## BBC tops the poll at BAFTA

BEST DRAMA SERIES Corinne Hollingsworth/Jane Harris BBC1	X	BEST COMEDY Only Fools and Horses Gareth Gwenlan/Tony Dow/John Sullivan BBC1	X
BEST DRAMA SERIAL OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH Charles Pattinson/Peter Jones/Simon Jones/ Stuart Wilson/Peter Flannery BBC2	X	BEST LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT SHOOTING STARS Alan Marley/Mark Mylod BBC2	X
BEST FACTUAL SERIES THE HOUSE Michael Waldman/Andrew Bethell Double Exposure BBC2	X	BEST TALK MRS MERTON CHRISTMAS SHOW Mark Gorton/Pat Markey/Caroline Aherne Granada Television for BBC Manchester BBC1	X
THE RICHARD DIMBLEBY AWARD Writer and presenter of AMERICAN VISIONS BBC2	X	THE SPECIAL AWARD CHARLES WHEELER BBC correspondent	X
BEST NEWS COVERAGE NEWSNIGHT: 98 COVERAGE Peter Horrocks BBC2	X	BEST SPORTS/EVENTS COVERAGE BBC2 EURO 96 COVERAGE Neil Storey/Wynne Kent BBC1	X
BEST ACTRESS OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH BBC2	X	BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES: CHRISTMAS SPECIAL BBC1	X
THE FLAHERTY DOCUMENTARY AWARD HORIZON: FERRIS'S LAST THEOREM John Lynch/Simon Singh BBC2	X	BEST CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME/BEST SCHOOLS DRAMA SHAKESPEARE SHORTS: ROMEO AND JULIET Richard Langridge/Anne Brogan/Andrew Chater BBC Schools BBC2	X
THE FOREIGN TELEVISION PROGRAMME BURNING ONE A Steven Bochco production BBC2	X	BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM THE OLD LADY AND THE PIGEONS Bernard La Jole/Oliver Brunner/Sylvain Chomet A Django Production for BBC Bristol BBC2	X
BEST EDITING OF A FACTUAL PROGRAMME EDWARD ROBERTS AND EDITING TEAM THE SYSTEM BBC2	X	BEST MAKE UP/HAIR THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL BBC1	X
THE ALAN CLARKE AWARD Head of Drama Serials, BBC Production	X	LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Head of Children's Programmes, BBC Production	X
THE DENNIS POTTER AWARD PETER FLANNERY Writer of OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH BBC2	X		

Public appreciation of the BBC's unique range of television programmes was echoed by the professional votes of this year's BAFTA juries — in the British equivalent of the Oscars. BBC programme makers, performers and contributors won an unrivalled array of 22 awards. Congratulations to them all.



## The economists who would steer Brown's Budget debut

IT IS not only the politicians whose jobs are put in the balance by an Election. Some top economists could find themselves out of office overnight, and that new breed, the regulators, may also find their job prospects affected by the vote.

Gordon Brown has said he would reform the Treasury, making it more accountable and less personal than under the previous Government.

Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, looks safe, although Sir Alan Budd, chief economics adviser, has hinted that he will leave when his contract expires in the autumn. Eddie George has another year of his term to run as Governor of the Bank and Mr Brown would be unlikely to want to damage his inflation-busting credentials by engineering what would be seen as a politically inspired coup.

But Labour has said it will create new posts within the Bank and the Treasury to improve the quality of independent advice. The Treasury's panel of independent economic advisers, the "wise men", would quickly be replaced by a US-style Council of Economic Advisers to the Chancellor. At the Bank, Mr Brown has said he would broaden the monetary policy committee by seconding three or four outsiders. There is also a suggestion that

he might appoint a second Deputy Governor, alongside Howard Davies, to begin the division of the Bank's monetary policy and regulation functions.

Gavin Davies (see below) is the only current "wise man" certain to be offered a role under Labour. But Martin Weale, director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, has earned respect for his forecasting skills, while Bridget Rosewell, director of Business Strategies, could be offered a position at the Bank because of her expertise on regional mat-

ters. Roger Bootle, head of economics at HSBC, is the author of a treatise on the death of inflation and would offer an interesting counterblast on the inflation debate within the Bank.

But Professor Tim Congdon, director of Lombard Street Research, would almost certainly prove politically unacceptable due to his unreconstructed monetarist views. Kate Barker, head of economics at the CBI, is likely to feel compromised by the more intimate relationship Labour is proposing.

Labour's economic policy movers and shakers:

**Gavin Davies:** The Chief International Economist at Goldman Sachs is tipped as a future Governor of the Bank of England. He is respected in the City for his pragmatic approach to the economy. Mr Davies, 46, served in the policy unit at No 10 in the dying days of the Callaghan Government while his wife, Sue Nye, is head of Mr Brown's office. A lucrative City career has made him a millionaire.

**Richard Layard:** Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics and a former adviser to the Labour Government, he is tipped as a future Governor of the Bank.

**Ed Balls:** Gordon Brown's 30-year old economic adviser could become the youngest senior Treasury figure since 1945. Mr Balls, educated at Oxford and Harvard, has worked at Mr Brown's office for several years. Mr Balls has been tipped as head of the Treasury's new policy unit.

**ALASDAIR MURRAY**

## Terms of reference could change but holders remain

THE regulators who rule over wide tranches of British industry are not political appointments — in theory. Not all of them, however, would be Labour's choice for the role.

But their immediate replacement may prove difficult. Many have several more years of their individual contracts still to run.

They are generally appointed by the relevant Secretary of State, and those contracts contain catch-all phrases that relate to the circumstances under which they can be dismissed from office.

"Incapacity or misbehaviour" is the normal form of words, although this formulation has yet to be tested in action. Labour is unlikely to move immediately against most of the regulators but will

wait for their normal terms of office to expire and then replace them with more favoured appointments.

The new Government does, however, have two changes planned. The first is a redrawing of the terms of reference

under which they will operate. "Customer issues" will be promoted to stand equal in importance to the widening of competition within the relevant industries that had become the main drive of utilities regulation under the Conservatives.

The second is the appointment of advisers, acting effectively as non-executive directors, who will be drawn from business leaders and other lay people and charged with providing advice and moral support to their respective regulator.

MARTIN WALLER

	Bank	Bank
	Rate	Rate
Australia \$	2.16	2.00
Austria Sch	20.73	18.18
Belgium F	61.03	66.40
Canada \$	2.285	2.288
Ceylon Rs	0.077	0.078
Denmark Kr	11.28	10.43
Finland Mk	8.97	8.27
France F	9.50	9.18
Germany DM	2.37	2.74
Greece Dr	472	488
Hong Kong \$	12.5	12.19
Iceland Is	127	107
Ireland P	1.26	1.26
Israel Sh	3.82	6.17
Italy Lira	2046	2725
Japan Yen	200.80	204.40
Malta	0.650	0.604
Netherlands G	3.545	3.088
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.27
Norway Kr	12.13	11.25
Portugal Esc	200.00	270.00
S. Africa R	7.91	8.90
Spain Ptas	166.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	13.67	12.48
Switzerland F	2.54	2.39
Turkey Lira	225.00	210.00
USA	1.25	1.00

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to spot and forward rates. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



□ 'Windfall tax' could blow towards bonuses □ Fitting climax for ING chief □ Ecclestone deserves some reward for pole position

## Not the party for the fat cats

TONY BLAIR'S new Labour has been at pains to protest its enthusiasm and understanding for business. Despite the rounds of City lunches that his team has undergone, the party may be harbouring less sympathy for the City and those who work in it.

Tales of massive City bonuses, six-figure signing-on fees, and 22-carat golden handcuffs have almost certainly permeated beneath the skin of new Labour. The numbers involved make industrial fat cats look painfully undernourished. The outcry which greeted the salary of the unfortunate Cédric Brown during his days at British Gas seems positively misplaced when viewed in the light of what a bright young bond dealer is likely to be collecting, let alone the rewards of being a corporate financier in a top merchant bank.

Just as Dick Giordano, of British Gas, cited market forces as the reason why a formerly lowly remunerated gasman should find himself catapulted on to the rich list, so the City firms maintain that they must compete to win quality staff, and the prime area of competition is pay.

Even Martin Taylor, the aesthetic chief of Barclays Bank, has had to reconcile himself to this argument, and has allowed BZW to join in the high-priced hiring

game with alacrity. Yet these inflated City salaries have to be funded, and, eventually, it is customers who inevitably pay the price.

Companies have long bemoaned the level of fees which can accompany the simplest of transactions but there are signs that they start to rebel. The extraordinary tradition which held that the charges for raising capital by rights issue should be the same, no matter which finance houses were involved, is now giving way to the more fashionable concept of competition.

The debate that inspired this change has helped to encourage some critics of the City to venture their views publicly.

Niall Fitzgerald, the Unilever chief, recently let forth a public tirade against the charges that the City levies. He has found many supporters for his views.

John Hoerner, the American-born chief executive of Burton Group, has taken an eloquent stance on the subject, doing away with having a merchant bank on permanent call as an adviser.

If these people take exception

to funding City fat cats, one can only imagine the attitude that certain members of the Blair team might take to the sums that are involved. And the temptation there must be to try to do something about it.

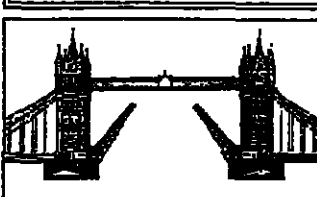
Labour may be pledged not to alter personal tax rates, but there are almost certainly some in the parliamentary party who would like to see a version of windfall tax blowing towards bonuses. And the latest débacle over CWS has hardly helped the cause of those who would argue that merchant banks and brokers are an honourable breed, earning an honest penny.

### Bowing out on a high note?

THE reign of Aad Jacobs as chairman of ING comes to an end next year. A successful conclusion to the present talks to buy Dillon Read, the US investment banking boutique, would be a fitting climax to a long career in banking and insurance.

When Mr Jacobs first hove

### PENNINGTON



into the City's view he was the man who had returned from a jog one Sunday morning in February 1995 to hear on the wireless that Barings was in trouble and likely to crash.

Mr Jacobs immediately summoned a top-level team to formulate a plan he had had in mind for some time.

Not long before the crash, he had lunch at Barings and mentioned, just casually of course, that should the merchant bank ever need a friendly shareholder, ING could be that friend.

As we now know, Mr Jacobs beat the opposition, including ABN Amro, a rival Dutch bank, to buy Barings for £1 in return for footing what was then a still unquantified black hole. It has

been far from plain sailing since that morning jog.

Many disgruntled institutions were left holding various bits of Barings paper with little prospect of getting their money back, although that may soon be resolved, and vowing never to do business with ING Barings again.

Restoring the battered Barings name has taken time and even now the asset management arm is still struggling. But in other areas, the integration of the diverse ING/Barings interests, such as emerging markets and UK corporate finance, are finally beginning to gel.

What could put the seal on the banking and insurance group's long-term strategy is a successful outcome of negotiations to buy Dillon Read. Again this was part of the Barings portfolio bought by ING and which Mr Jacobs now hopes to turn to his advantage.

A successful conclusion to the negotiations with Dillon Read will not yet put ING up there alongside JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch or Morgan Stanley.

What it will do, however, is to put the larger banking brethren on notice: "Big is not always beautiful or even best."

### A tricky formula for Formula One

IN THE motor racing industry, the prospect that Bernie Ecclestone might raise £2.5 billion from floating Formula One meets a rather less enthusiastic response than the Co-op gave to Andrew Regan. The manufacturers argue that it is their drivers in their cars that win Formula One its huge television audiences, not Mr Ecclestone.

But Ecclestone has created demand for the sport by marketing, negotiation of TV contracts and an iron control of its intellectual property. He deserves to profit from his efforts. The problem Salomon Brothers has in trying to float the business is finding a long-term value for this middleman.

If the teams, the drivers and the track owners worked together efficiently, they could reduce the value of Ecclestone's

business to virtually nothing. That seems an unlikely prospect. The battle over the Concorde agreement — which divides up TV money among the teams — shows the problems. More will surface as TV companies move to show Formula One on a pay-per-view basis, so reducing the exposure enjoyed by the sponsors of the racing teams.

Yet while the internecine strife provides a profitable role for Ecclestone's negotiating skills, it poses problems for those trying to draft the prospectus for Formula One. The chances of a float before the end of this summer's racing season now seem slim. And if Salomon can find a way of encapsulating Formula One's eccentricities in a prospectus, they will face even greater problems in justifying that £2.5 billion price tag.

### On the chain gang

BILL COCKBURN is a marketing man at heart, and no doubt he did a fine job of selling the post of retail managing director of WH Smith to his new recruit. But when its two subsidiaries are better at selling both books and music than the main chain, no one should underestimate the task she faces. It is unlikely to be made any easier by Mr Cockburn's apparent confidence that he knows exactly what needs to be done.

## Shell urged to tighten policies on environment

By CARL MORTSHED

SEVERAL of Shell's largest shareholders are considering a vote in favour of a resolution requesting the oil multinational to tighten up its environmental policies.

The resolution, which has the backing of church and ethical funds accounting for less than 1 per cent of the shares of Shell Transport & Trading, is being considered by leading insurance companies. At least two institutions are believed to be looking favourably on the resolution.

Shell, which yesterday suf-

fered a setback in its first-quarter earnings, is fighting a propaganda battle with a number of environmental groups that claim the oil company operates double standards in relation to the environment between the developed and developing world. The oil company is publishing its first group environmental review on Tuesday, but environmentalists insist the company needs an external audit and will be lobbying big shareholders next week.

Shell yesterday gave warn-

ing of a weak outlook for crude oil prices and refining margins. Shell's earnings fell 5 per cent to £155 billion on a current cost basis in spite of a boost in upstream profits from higher oil prices.

Shell is expecting worldwide oil stocks to rise because of production increases from OPEC, including the Iraqi oil-for-food sales, and from non-OPEC producers, principally the North Sea. The oil company indicated that demand remained strong, but that supply growth would exceed the rise in demand.

Shell's profits from oil and gas exploration were up 9 per cent to £996 million in the three months to March, but oil production was static and gas volumes slipped 5 per cent.

Shell's Nigerian operations were affected by fighting between rival communities. Since the start of the year Shell has lost 630,000 barrels of oil production, mainly in its Western Division.

A rising tax charge exacerbated the fall in current cost earnings as did a special credit of £90 million in the first quarter of 1995. Shell's tax charge rose from 41 to 51 per cent in the last quarter as more profits were earned in countries with tighter fiscal regimes.

Oil prices helped the results, with the average price per barrel of oil sold increasing \$2.60 to \$21.20 in the first three months of the year. However, refining margins in the Far East fell from \$4.60 to \$3 per barrel, causing refining and marketing profits to slide 1 per cent on a current cost basis to £519 million. Chemical profits were up 12 per cent to £184 million and group return on capital employed slipped from 13.2 to 11.8 per cent.

Times, page 30



Top team: from left, Bill Hoskins, finance director, Michael von Brentano, and Bill Grimsey, chief executive

## Wickes sees pick-up in trading

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WICKES, the do-it-yourself chain that recently emerged from an accounting scandal, said yesterday that trading had picked up in recent weeks and was particularly strong over the Easter period.

Michael von Brentano,

chairman, told the annual meeting that same store sales were 14 per cent ahead in the 17 weeks to April 26. Easter saw an 18 per cent improvement in same store sales over last year. He added: "The exceptional good weather and an improving housing market have been beneficial." Mr von

Brentano also cited an emphasis on offering customers good value as a reason for the uplift.

Wickes said on Wednesday that it had sold its continental European chain to Bricorama, a French company, for about £7.5 million. Selling all of Wickes's over-

seas interests was part of the recovery package agreed among banks and shareholders after the uncovering last year of irregularities in its buying department that had been going on for at least three years. The Serious Fraud Office is now investigating.

## T&N warning on strong pound

By OUR CITY STAFF

SIR COLIN HOPE, chairman of T&N, the automotive components group, told the annual meeting of constraints on progress in the current year.

He said that a high level of restructuring, change of flow from essential cost reduction and efficiency

programmes along with the strong pound would constrain progress.

He said that the company had allocated about £50 million to its new asbestos liability fund, well ahead of its original schedule.

Sir Colin told shareholders that sales volumes were in line with expectations, confirming some recovery in its heavy duty and industrial markets. He also said that the year had "started on an encouraging note, with our operating performance edging ahead of last year and margins on an improving trend".

T&N said its automotive business continued to strengthen, particularly in America although the French car industry was experiencing difficulty. T&N shares rose 1p on the statement to 135½p.



Hope constraints

## APV approached by second bidder

By OLIVER AUGUST

APV, the engineering group, looks set to become the target of a takeover battle after the second "indication of interest", prompting a further sharp increase in the share price.

The first potential bidder made itself known to APV on Tuesday. Yesterday the board announced: "It is not clear at this stage if either of the current approaches will or will not lead to an offer for the company." The shares closed up 5p at 92p. Bids are expected to be around the 100p mark, valuing the company at about £297 million.

The identity of the bidders is not known, but the City has identified a number of possibilities. They include Eurotherm, Tomkins, GEA of Germany, Tetra Pak of Sweden and Sasib of Italy. GEA had denied it was behind Tuesday's announcement but made no comment yesterday. Siebe, a previous bidder for APV, has made no formal statement but is not thought to be in the race.

The Stock Exchange will

investigate APV share purchases that took place on Tuesday when sizeable orders were rushed through before the first bid announcement. A spokeswoman said: "We automatically look at all unusual share price movements. If any action needs to be taken, the company will be told about it, but we don't make any public announcements."

APV said it will keep shareholders informed of developments, but declined to comment further. Fleming Investment Management disclosed yesterday that it had bought 1.4 million APV shares, taking its holding to 9 million shares or 2.99 per cent of the total capital.

Turnover in the shares returned to normal yesterday after hectic trading on Tuesday. Some 1.2 million changed hands compared with 15 million after the first announcement. The share price has underperformed the market by 30 per cent in the past year.

## Fidelity Brokerage gets £200,000 fine

FIDELITY BROKERAGE, the retail stockbroker, has been fined £200,000 by a City watchdog for administrative chaos that affected customers last year. Fidelity must also pay costs of £162,500, but the company is now free to take on new business again (Adam Jones writes).

Fidelity had been banned from accepting new clients by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) last October after hundreds of complaints from investors. Many divi-

dend cheques had been delayed after the introduction of a new computer system went wrong, causing accounting and reconciliation problems.

Fidelity admitted to the regulator that it had not properly planned for the additional strain created by a simultaneous drive for new business. It is estimated that the company lost £30 million because of the ban. The SFA said that was taken into account when assessing the size of the fine.

## Andersen Worldwide votes against split

PARTNERS at Andersen Worldwide, the group that includes Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting, have voted against splitting the company (Adam Jones writes). There had been speculation that friction between the two groups might lead to the spin-off of Andersen Consulting. The management consultant is growing by 25 per cent a year, twice as fast as Arthur Andersen, the accountant, which has its own consultancy arm. At a meeting held in Paris,

93 per cent of partners voted to keep the global organisation together. The meeting capped 18 months of discussion over the company's direction. Andersen Worldwide revenues are expected to top \$11 billion this year.

Yesterday, Arthur Andersen announced its Leeds office had won the contract for internal auditing at Asda, the supermarket chain. The contract is thought to be worth a little less than £10 million over five years.

## City set for junk bonds launch

By ERIC REGULY

THE new owner of the BBC's domestic transmission system is set to become the City's first sterling issuer of US-style junk bonds.

Castle Transmission Services, the American-led consortium that paid £240 million for the BBC transmitters in February, is to raise £100 million in junk bonds in several weeks. CS First Boston and JP Morgan, the underwriters, believe the Castle deal will trigger a flurry of similar issues as British and European companies look for more flexible financing methods. One banker said: "More US financing techniques are being applied in Europe. We will see the development of a deeper junk bond market here."

Junk bonds are Wall Street's term for high-yield debt — debt that is below triple-A investment grade. The bonds generally pay double-digit interest rates to compensate for their higher risk. They are popular in the US because their covenants are less restrictive than bank debt and they come typically with long maturities.

Castle's junk bonds are technically senior unsecured bonds. Probably they will carry an interest rate of 9.5 per cent and mature in ten years. The maturity date coincides with the expiry of the BBC's transmission contract with the Castle transmission system.

The consortium consists of Castle Tower Corporation, a US transmission tower construction company; Berkshire Partners, a Boston investment firm; Candover Investments, of Britain; and France Telecom.

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## Who wins when railways close?

From Mr J.G. Mordue  
Sir, Perhaps there is a third scenario to add to the two offered by Pennington ("Collision course", April 18) for the future of the privatised railways.

We already know that inefficient train operators will be penalised financially. They will then have reduced resources from which to maintain the specified levels of service, so the level of service provided will be further reduced. A point will be reached at which it can be argued that the subsidy would be better spent on road improvements than on rail services, for which demand will have been supposedly proved to be inadequate. That will provide a strong political argument for the closure of the failed parts of the railway system.

Where there is a political argument, always look for those who will benefit from a proposed course of action. Who will benefit from large-scale railway closures? Answer: the shareholders in Railtrack, which will be able to sell valuable sites in key positions. That expectation is evidently the reason for the high stock market price of Railtrack.

Other beneficiaries will naturally be bankers, accountants and property dealers, all well represented in the party that devised the privatisation system for the railways. On the basis of the old adage that a man is presumed to intend the natural consequences of his actions, we can now see the reason for the otherwise incomprehensible system that was chosen.

Yours faithfully,

J.G. MORDUE

Gresham House,  
53 Clarendon Road,  
Watford, Herts.

## Electricity users and open market

From the Chairman,  
Electricity Consumers'  
Committees Chairmen's  
Group

Sir, All electricity consumers expect to be able to choose their supplier in an open market from April 1, 1998. They will not be delayed without very good reason. The consumer group I represent does not accept that the public electricity companies are not able to complete the trading arrangements before the deadline which was set nearly eight years ago.

We want to know which of the 14 companies will fail to deliver and we will want to know why.

Yours faithfully,

YVONNE CONSTANCE

Chairman,  
Electricity Consumers'  
Committees Chairmen's  
Group,  
16th Floor,  
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Edgbaston,  
Birmingham.

Letters to the  
Business section  
of *The Times*  
can be sent  
by fax on  
0171-782 5112.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Labour must soften sterling to avoid devaluation later

Taxes need to go up so the pressure for interest rates to rise can be eased

Only one thing now stands between Britain and its first successful Labour Government since 1945. That obstacle is the pound sterling. Tony Blair, like every previous Labour Prime Minister in British history, is threatened from his very first day in office by a malignant hardness of the pound. Unless Mr Blair does something about this economic cancer — and does it fast — his Government will be destroyed by the inevitable humiliating devaluation. This is what happened to Ramsay MacDonald in 1931, to Attlee in 1949, to Wilson in 1967 and to Callaghan in 1976.

The question is whether Mr Blair can overcome this obstacle and prove that Labour has finally learnt to live in a world of freely convertible currencies, deregulated financial markets and floating exchange rates. The way he could prove this is quite clear.

The new Government must create the conditions for an immediate fall in the pound. By putting in place the policies now that will gradually drive down the pound, the Government can pre-empt the much bigger devaluation that will otherwise become inevitable in one or two years' time. By then a devaluation would do infinitely more damage, both from a political and an economic point of view.

The political advantages of getting the currency depreciation over and done with are obvious. The economic case for devaluing early is also compelling. A fall in the pound would raise import prices. If this jump in prices occurred today, while unemployment is still high and job security is still precarious, it would not produce an inflationary wage-price spiral. But if the Government waited for markets to trigger a devaluation after another year or two of rapid economic growth, the inflationary impact on wages would be much more serious. In a few years' time there would also be more danger of the pound overshooting on the way down and thereby injecting a further dose of inflation, since by then the present equilibrium in the balance of payments would probably be replaced by a large deficit caused by the overvalued pound.

For these reasons, and many others which there is no space to list, the new Chancellor should pose one question above all others to his Treasury officials and the Bank of England this weekend: what can we do to bring down the pound? The answer to this question is perfectly clear. If Gordon Brown's advisers tell

him that it isn't, he should get some new advisers.

In essence, a three-pronged strategy is required. First, the Chancellor must disappoint the market expectation that interest rates will rise sharply after the election. Secondly, he must raise taxes. Thirdly, he must make clear that his economic policies will be designed specifically to achieve a more competitive exchange rate.

Let me start from the last point. By expressing his desire for a lower pound and backing it up with some Bank of England currency intervention, Mr Brown could send an immediate signal to currency traders to start taking the big profits that they have built up by buying the pound. Such jawboning and intervention would not work for very long on its own. But combined with the market expectation of appropriate measures on interest rates and taxes, a warning from Mr Brown could have a big effect on market psychology. Just as importantly, Mr Brown would be making clear to the British public that the imminent decline of the pound was a positive response to deliberate government policy and was something to be welcomed, not treated as a humiliating speculative "attack". If only John Major had bothered to explain to the people the benefits of a competitive exchange rate after White Wednesday, the Tories might still be in power.

Turning to monetary policy, Mr Brown's opportunity to act could come as early as Wednesday, when he holds his first monthly meeting with Eddie George. A quarter-point increase in base rates at this meeting is a foregone conclu-

sion. The Bank has been calling for such a move since Christmas. It has been right to do so, despite the strength of the pound. Those parts of the economy not exposed to the strong pound are showing signs of inflation and pressure will grow on services, housing and consumption from building society windfalls. The best way to dampen these pressures would be to raise taxes, but given the delays in the budget process, some temporary tightening of monetary policy is right. In raising base rates next week, however, Mr Brown should make clear that tighter monetary policy is only a temporary expedient to control the economy until the Budget can put it on the right track.

As suggested in a persuasive analysis published on Thursday by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, the likely path for interest rates under a sensibly rebalanced economic policy would be an increase of a quarter or half a point in the next few months, followed by a similar decline once the tighter fiscal policy begins to bite. Even a hint of such a policy rebalancing towards higher taxes and lower interest rates would give bullish speculators pause, since futures prices today assume an increase in base rates from 6 per cent to 7 per cent by the end of the year, with a further rise after that.

The last and most important element of the new economic strategy — an increase in taxes — would have to wait for the Budget. There will be plenty of time to go into details between now and then. But even before

then, Mr Brown should start to explain why higher taxes will be necessary and why they are compatible with Labour's election promises.

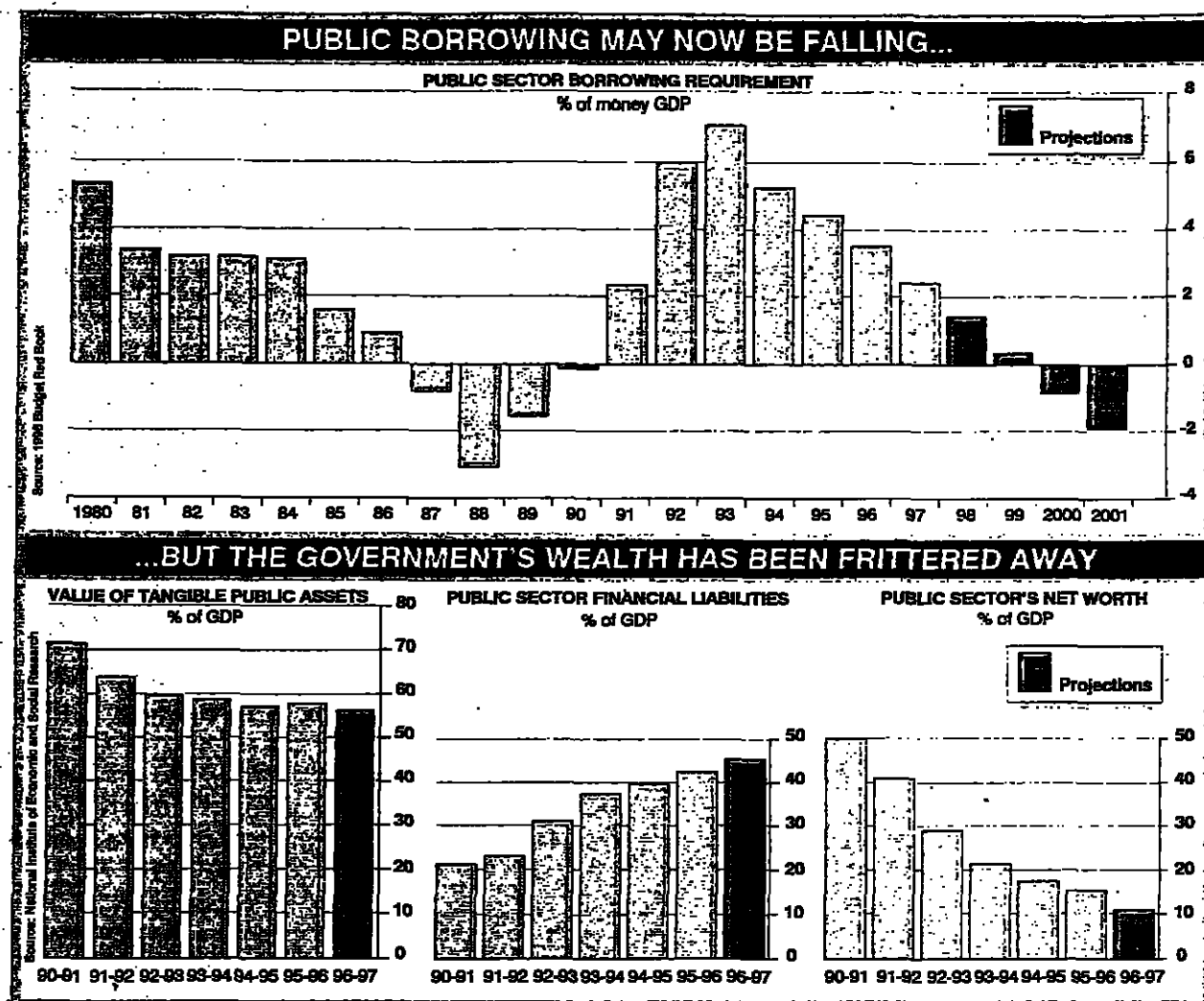
He must make clear that taxes are not rising because of Labour's eagerness to spend public money. Taxes must rise first and foremost to control inflation in a way that does the least possible damage to British industry and long-term prospects for growth, investment and jobs. That means restraining demand primarily through taxes, instead of high interest rates and an overvalued pound. A secondary reason for higher taxes is to reduce public borrowing in the long term after a rake's progress under the last government. It has seen the net worth of the public sector fall from 49.8 per cent of gross domestic product in 1990 to 11 per cent today. This shocking decline in public wealth, equivalent to some £5,000 for every man woman and child in Britain, is eloquently discussed in this week's *National Institute Review*, but it is only a secondary reason for wanting to raise taxes.

How, finally, can Mr Brown justify an increase in taxes after the promises made in the election campaign? The answer, again, is very easily. He can emphasise that the promises made were extremely narrow. Both Labour and Tory front benches deliberately confined their promises to tax rates, rather than overall levels of revenue because they knew perfectly well that changes in the tax structure to raise more money might be needed after the election. In this sense both sides have fought an honest and self-restrained campaign which has been a credit to

British democracy. With so many options open, there are now plenty of tax-raising possibilities for Mr Brown to explore. The most attractive, both from the economic and political point of view, would be the complete abolition of mortgage interest relief and advance corporation tax, raising £6 billion to £7 billion between them. In the weeks ahead there will be plenty of time to consider the pluses and minuses of these and other options. The main thing at this stage is that Mr Brown should recognise the challenge of steering Britain towards a better balanced economic policy and should respond to it without delay.

If Mr Brown does what is necessary to tighten fiscal policy and curb sterling, the new Labour Government will have every chance of achieving its goals in the five years ahead. But if Mr Brown misses his chance, he will end up like every previous Labour Chancellor — just an adjective appended to a national humiliation in the currency markets.

How, finally, can Mr Brown justify an increase in taxes after the promises made in the election campaign? The answer, again, is very easily. He can emphasise that the promises made were extremely narrow. Both Labour and Tory front benches deliberately confined their promises to tax rates, rather than overall levels of revenue because they knew perfectly well that changes in the tax structure to raise more money might be needed after the election. In this sense both sides have fought an honest and self-restrained campaign which has been a credit to



## WH Smith pins its hopes on Hodson's choice

Sarah Cunningham on the woman with the task of restoring a retailer's fortunes

Beverly Hodson has accepted one of the most prestigious jobs in retailing — and one of the most difficult. WH Smith still has a place on most high streets but it has lost its place in the public's affections. It will be her job as head of WH Smith Retail to reverse the declining fortunes.

For all its prestige the job has a reputation for being something of a poisoned chalice and both her most recent predecessors have made hasty exits. Peter Troughton left in 1995 after the first of two profit warnings that year, while Peter Bamford, his successor, left last month, just one year into a four-year recovery programme.

Mrs Hodson, 45, has spent most of her career with Boots, a retailer whose high street success WH Smith would love to emulate. In her 18 years there she was buying and marketing controller, responsible for the beauty business. She also successfully relaunched Solman, its own-brand sun-

have realised there was a danger of her job disappearing again. Both Dolcis and Cable & Co are likely to be sold or merged into Sear's women's wear business.

The job she is taking is quite different to the one that Mr Bamford left just three weeks ago. WH Smith Retail is being reorganised; Mrs Hodson will not run the 100 or so railway and airport shops, which have been hived off into another division. At the same time, logistics and distribution has been separated and will report to another director, Richard Handover. Her responsibility will be the chain of 400 high street shops.

Something else that has changed is that although Mrs Hodson will go on the Smith main board, she will also find that Mr Cockburn has installed himself as head of the retail board.

Mr Cockburn has boundless ambitions for WH Smith outlets, which he has said could become "cerebral supermarkets". The number of products — particularly the books range — has been cut, but items such as snacks and a wider range of children's goods have been introduced.

The strategy may be in place, but not everyone is as convinced as Mr Cockburn that it is the right one. Certainly the results have not shown the benefit yet.

Halfway through the current financial year, while group pre-tax profits were much improved at £38.6 million from £17.3 million a year earlier, like-for-like sales at WH Smith Retail were only 1.5 per cent ahead. By contrast, Waterstone's, its bookshop arm, had 9 per cent higher sales.

The market gave Mrs Hodson a modest welcome yesterday, with the shares rising 7½p to 465½p. But, as with the arrival of Mr Cockburn from his job as chief executive at the Post Office, the view is that she is not particularly well known as a retailer. Mr Cockburn promises that when she arrives, probably next month, she will "hit the ground running fast". She will not have any choice.



Hodson: high street focus

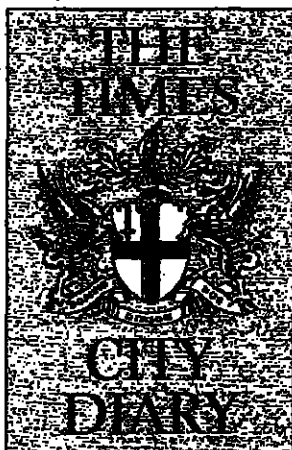
## Tarzan amok

IF, AS revealed in this newspaper, Michael Heseltine's own personal chicken run leads him to GEC, there could be an interesting few months ahead in the boardroom. It seems the enmity between the putative next chairman of GEC and George Simpson, chief executive, runs even deeper than one of GEC's submarines.

It all goes back to January, when Simpson was one of a group of business leaders that put their name to *Promoting Prosperity*, a worthy docu-

ment turned out by the Commission on Public Policy and British Business and launched at a conference attended by Tony Blair. In one of those fits of carefully choreographed rage in which the President of the Board of Trade specialises, Hezza gatecrashed the conference and accused them all of being political dupes. Simpson came in for particular stick. By the evening news bulletins, Hezza's spite had become more personal still; he claimed Simpson had nothing to do with the writing of the pamphlet. Insiders say Simpson has not forgotten. Neither has Hezza, especially if he decides that a Labour victory has anything to do with certain tarzanoids in the business community. Boys, please.

● **BRITAIN'S answer to Shirley Maclaine**, Lynne Franks, pops up on *European Business News* next week wittering on about her unique business skills. This self-styled "futurist" claims to be bored with the past, which is probably why she has rewritten much of it. She is now working on a new book about her "psychic business sense". She also re-



veals, alarmingly, that she will be preaching about her spiritual rebirth in Switzerland next week to 35 Chinese women, who have apparently never met a foreigner before. In which case they are going to end up with some very strange ideas about Western women.

## Ring my bell

AS IF to prove that management consultants are indeed taking over the world, yet another has announced a push into the UK. The latest is Roland Berger & Partner, a German consultancy fresh from overseeing the *Wirtschaftswunder* that is that country's economy at present.

Ian Hay Davison, ex-Lloyds and ex-Storehouse, is UK chairman, and he has just poached the managing director of Arthur D Little, Tim Simpson. Mr Hay Davison is a keen bell-ringer, and Mr Simpson hot stuff on the church organ. And I always thought management consultants were such dry old sticks.

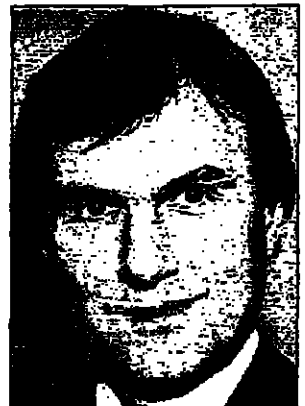
A **ROTTEN** life serving the people as a Member of the European Parliament. A document falls into my hands from the Caribbean Banana Exporters Association. A "Fact Finding Mission to Assess Damages to the Caribbean Banana Industry" has been formed. Glens Kinnock, for it is she, and four other time-servers will spend six days getting to grips with the need for "preferential terms of access" for bananas to the EU. Their gruelling itinerary will require receptions, lunches, field trips, more lunches and dinners. This crack squad flies out to Guadeloupe on Monday. Let us pray, Watson, that they arrive in time.

## Struck out

ALAS for poor Archie Norman, now heading for one of the most humiliating defeats in his so far glittering career.

The Asda chairman may succeed at Tunbridge Wells, but he is still about to be judged wanting by his peers. His place in the company's football team is in jeopardy. Electioneering has meant that he has not played for the last six matches. As star striker, one might expect his absence to have been felt. Indeed, the side has not lost a match since. The team's sweeper, Allen Leighton, also Asda's chief executive, reckons Archie may soon find himself sitting on more than one sort of bench. Such touching loyalty, and how different from party politics.

MARTIN WALLER



The election has put Archie Norman's place in the Asda football team in jeopardy

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## 3M sells advert company to rival

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE American group 3M is selling National Advertising, its outdoor advertising company, to Outdoor Systems, its main rival, for \$1 billion and withdrawing from the business.

Although the 3M subsidiary was the market leader in the US last year, the parent company has decided that it does not want to spend the resources necessary to develop the company and keep up with the competition. Outdoor Systems has expanded rapidly in recent years, overtaking National Advertising's annual \$200 million in sales this year.

Ray Richelsen, 3M group vice-chairman, said: "The outdoor advertising industry has changed significantly in recent years, and we recognise that substantial investments would be required to maintain market leadership." National Advertising specialises in billboards and advertising kiosks placed in shopping malls.

3M bought the company 30 years ago believing that it could dispense with the lighting on billboards that had become common in the US, relying instead on car headlights to illuminate the signs after dark. Unfortunately they discovered that headlights beams did not point high enough to reach the billboards, but despite the failure of its idea 3M hung on to the subsidiary for decades.

Mary Arvin, a company spokeswoman, said: "We have decided that it just doesn't fit in with the rest of the group." 3M expects to receive about \$500 million in cash after taxes and writedowns, which it will use partly to step up its share buyback scheme. It will use the rest of the money to develop its other businesses. The Minnesota-based group had sales last year of \$14.2 billion and manufactures more than 50,000 industrial, commercial, consumer and health care products.



Bernard Matthews, the firm's biggest shareholder, expects the profits downturn to be a short-term situation

## Turkey firm sees leaner time ahead

SHARES in Bernard Matthews fell 12.5p to 127p yesterday after the supplier of turkey and other meat products gave a warning to investors that first-half profits were unlikely to match last year's comparable results (Martin Barrow writes).

The company, whose chairman and biggest shareholder is Bernard Matthews, said that trading in the second quarter would not match last year's high levels, when business prospered because of the BSE beef crisis, with consumers switching to alternative meats.

At the company's annual meeting in Norwich yesterday shareholders were told that the downturn was expected to be "a short-term situation" and the board remained "cautiously optimistic" about the outlook for the year as a whole.

In the first half of last year Bernard Matthews increased pre-tax profits to £10.4 million from £8.67 million. Full-year profits rose to £22.58 million from £18.74 million.

# Wimpey warning on housing recovery to new government

By PAUL DURMAN

GEORGE WIMPEY, Britain's biggest housebuilder, has urged the new government not to "overreact" to the strong housing recovery that the industry is enjoying.

While most commentators expect an increase in interest rates almost immediately, Joe Dwyer, Wimpey's chairman, is anxious that the inflationary pressures in the economy should not be exaggerated.

He told Wimpey's annual meeting yesterday that the sharp rises being seen in London property prices reflected the capital's "unique" status as an international market, partly driven by investment and not just home ownership. The rest of the country had moved into "the classic recovery phase, with modest price inflation radiating out from the South East to all parts of the UK by the end of the year."

Mr Dwyer added: "The recovery is necessary and should not be seen as bringing unacceptable inflation pressures to the economy as a whole. Prices are still below the levels reached at the end of the 1980s. Inhibitory action now may well cause a downturn, particularly in Northern England and Scotland." Mr Dwyer added that he believed the "excessive" price rises in London are set for a correction within the next two years.

Wimpey is still achieving much better profit margins this year. In February, it said Wimpey Homes and McLean Homes, the housebuilder acquired from Tarmac last year, had begun the year with gross margins of almost 18 per cent, up from just over 14 per cent this time last year. The improved margins, together with higher sale completions, "augurs well for a further substantial increase in profits for the year", he said.

Wimpey Homes is benefiting from improved house design, while the McLean companies "are performing even better than when they came into the group", Mr Dwyer said. The group's US and Australian companies are also on target to increase sales by 40-50 per cent.

John Mowlem, the construction company that is preparing to float a 49 per cent stake in SGB, its scaffolding business, said its performance in the early months was ahead of last year "although... as usual rather slow".

Mowlem also outlined the thinking behind its plan to raise money from SGB to provide the money necessary to develop its construction and special services divisions, neither of which is capital intensive. Special services includes the soil analysis and mineral and land testing business, which Mowlem wants to expand through acquisition.

## Etam's growing losses disappoint

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ETAM, the high-street fashion retailer, has disappointed again by reporting deepened losses in the last financial year, and no more than a slim improvement in its current trading.

In the year to January 25, the company made a pre-tax loss of £4.2 million, compared with £200,000 a year ago. Etam's shares fell 8.2p, to 125p. Stanley Lewis, chairman, said: "Bearing in mind the magnitude of the problems inherent in the business and

the massive changes that have been brought about, it is clear that progress is being made in the quest for sustainable and quality turnover and profit growth."

Second-half figures were hit by £2.5 million of spending on international technology and

the first phase of a relaunch. The group is planning to begin testing a new-look store in July, starting with five branches. The final dividend is unchanged at 0.75p, payable on July 3. This maintains the full-year dividend at 1.25p.

Tempos, page 30

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

# Get a free child ticket for Warwick Castle



The Times, in association with Warwick Castle, offers you the chance to get a free child ticket to the finest medieval castle in England: Warwick Castle was built on the River Avon, a few miles from Shakespeare's birthplace and fortified by William the Conqueror in 1068. You can see 900 years of history realistically recreated with displays of jousting, prepa-

rations for war, aristocratic tea parties and watch blacksmiths, fletchers, wheelwrights and seamstresses do the work they did centuries ago. In the refurbished Ghost Tower you will hear of the grisly murder of the castle's owner by his manservant. During May you can listen to medieval storytellers, learn how thirteenth-century knights went into battle and watch the first of this year's jousting weekends.

## HOW TO APPLY

Keep token one, right, and attach it to the free child ticket voucher which will appear in The Times tomorrow and simply present them at the Warwick Castle entrance. You can get more free child tickets by buying extra copies of the newspaper and purchasing an accompanying full-price adult ticket. The offer is valid until May 31, 1997.



CHANGING TIMES

## Toy factory closure to cut 250 jobs

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

MORE than 250 jobs are to go with the closure of a toy factory in the North East, it was announced yesterday.

The planned closure of the Fisher Price and Spears Games plant at Peterlee, Co Durham, will mean longer queue times in a district still trying to recover from the loss of its mining industry.

Production is being moved to Italy where the toy output is more in line with modern youngsters' demands and more cost competitive, the parent company, Mattel, said. The factory will be run down over the rest of this year.

Flavio Borgatta, senior vice-president of European operations, said: "We regret this action is necessary. However, we shall do everything possible to assist employees and to minimise the impact on the local community."

Peterlee has figured among the losers in the wake of Mattel's recent announcement of a review of their worldwide operations, which means the shedding of 2,500 of their 26,000 employees.

It was vulnerable because it specialises in making bigger toys, which are considered less fashionable with children, a Mattel spokesman said. "The way the market is going, retailers are looking for smaller more compact toys, such as electronic games, which is the sort of operation that Mattel has in Italy."

## EU call for new look at subsidy pact

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TORONTO

SIR LEON BRITTON, the European Union's External Affairs Commissioner, yesterday accused the US of heavily subsidising its aircraft industry and said that a 1992 accord between America and Europe limiting subsidies should be re-examined.

Addressing a trade conference here, Sir Leon said: "We think the agreement of 1992 needs to be looked at again. The Americans, one way or another, were 'giving to their industry very heavy subsidies', he added.

The agreement was designed to restrict direct and indirect state financial assistance for the construction of commercial aircraft with more than 100 seats.

The EU committed itself to capping subsidies at 30 per cent of development costs, while the US agreed to limit its indirect assistance to 5 per cent of sales by American manufacturers.

Informed sources have said that the subsidy question was discussed recently in talks between EU and US officials in Washington.

The issue will also be raised here tomorrow in contacts between Sir Leon and Charlene Barshefsky, the US Trade Representative, during sessions of the Quadrilateral Group, involving top trade officials from the US, Japan, the EU and Canada.

# Miners hope for gold in report

By GEORGE SIVELL

AT LEAST some of the mysteries surrounding Busang, once described as the world's largest gold discovery this century, are expected to be cleared up soon.

However, shares in Bre-X Minerals, the Canadian gold prospector, fell 23 Canadian cents to C\$3.48 (£1.53) in heavy trading after Freeport-McMoRan, the American mining group, extended its review of the controversial Busang Indonesian gold mining project until the end of June.

Freeport, a partner in the Busang project, requested the extension to give it time to study closely the findings of a report into Busang being compiled by

Strathcona Mineral Services of Toronto. The report is expected to be delivered later today and Bre-X says it will make an announcement to the North American financial markets before they open for trading on Monday.

Speculation has swirled around Busang since its future was cast into doubt on March 26 when Freeport-McMoRan said its preliminary tests found "insignificant" amounts of gold.

Bre-X had previously estimated Busang contained about 71 million ounces of gold, potentially the largest in the world. But heavy selling of Bre-X shares lopped almost C\$3 billion from the company's stock market value, wiping out 80 per cent of its market worth.

Freeport declined to comment yesterday on whether it planned any further drilling at Busang over the next two months. Strathcona said last week that it would maintain tight security over the assaying of its core samples.

Only one or two people in management at the laboratories would have access to the final assays and the results would not be reported until all the laboratory work was finished.

Analysts cautioned investors against reading too much into talk that the Freeport delay meant good news for Bre-X investors. Similarly Strathcona dismissed reports in the Indonesian press earlier this week of leaks of test results claiming goods news for Busang.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## NTT plans float for mobile phone arm

NTT of Japan, the world's largest phone company, is to float its mobile phone subsidiary next year in what is expected to be a record-breaking initial public offering. The sale will probably value the NTT DoCoMo, the subsidiary, at \$20 billion. Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank, and Yamaichi, the Japanese securities house, have been appointed to lead the global offering.

The deal is considered a coup by Goldman, which was chosen over rivals such as Merrill Lynch and SBC Warburg. NTT would not comment. An announcement confirming the deal and the identity of the underwriters is to be made next week. NTT DoCoMo has some ten million mobile phone subscribers. Its flotation is part of the Government's plans to liberalise the telecoms market.

## Informix falls into red

INFORMIX CORP, America's second-biggest publisher of database software, reported a huge first-quarter loss and unveiled a restructuring plan that includes job cuts and an unspecified charge in the second quarter. Alan Henricks, chief financial officer since January, has resigned. The company, based in California, said it will not report a profit for at least another two quarters. The first-quarter loss was \$140.1 million, or 93 cents a share, compared with net income of \$15.9 million, or 10 cents a share, in the same quarter a year ago.

## Leisure firm bid invited

BARR & WALLACE ARNOLD TRUST is inviting offers for its leisure business, which includes Wallace Arnold coach tours. However, the Leeds-based company said negotiations with Leisureplus, holding company for Shearings, the holiday firm, were continuing. Last month members of staff sent letters to the group's 2,000 shareholders, arguing that a sale to Shearings would mean job losses. Results in early April showed strong recovery in Wallace Arnold's continental bookings despite its UK trading being "slightly disappointing".

## Blagden sells Komet

BLAGDEN INDUSTRIES has sold Komet to Christian Daloz of France for £2.4 million plus settlement of inter-group and third party debt of £700,000. Blagden said the proceeds from the disposal will be used for working capital to expand the company's core businesses. Blagden said the value of Komet's net assets was £600,000 on December 31, 1996, and that Komet achieved pre-tax profits of £600,000 in 1996. The company said: "The disposal is in line with Blagden's stated strategy for the protective equipment division."

## Kuoni and P&O venture

KUONI, the travel company from Switzerland, has paid £5.7 million for 50 per cent of P&O Travel (Hong Kong) to form a joint venture to exploit the Asian travel market. P&O Travel (Hong Kong) also has operations in Singapore and Bangkok. For the time being, P&O Travel (Hong Kong) will continue to trade under its present name. P&O added that the venture "is well placed to exploit anticipated growth in tourism from the Asian region".

## Denmans' purchase

DENMANS ELECTRICAL, the industrial distribution group, has acquired Tibelec, the French distributor of lighting, electrical fittings and accessories to stores. The initial consideration is £1.65 million cash and a further sum not exceeding £3.51 million is payable in cash on April 30, 2000, depending on the profits during the three years ending December 31, 1999. Tibelec recorded pre-tax profits of £512,000 on sales of £5.86 million in 1996. Net assets stood at £1.37 million at the year end.

## Scholl appoints FD

SCHOLL, the footwear and footwear company, yesterday announced the appointment of Charles Marchetti as finance director. He is to replace Judy Stammers, who resigned when Scholl moved its head office from Windsor to London in July. Mr Marchetti, who trained as an accountant in Scotland, joined from SmithKline Beecham, where he had been vice-president and finance director of its Italian operations. He has also held financial positions at Hasbro, BTR, Dow Jones, American Standard and Price Waterhouse.

## Holliday starts well

HOLLIDAY CHEMICAL HOLDINGS said the year has started well, with first-quarter results in line with its plans and including a strong contribution from pharmaceutical activities. At the company's annual meeting yesterday shareholders were told a considerable element of uncertainty had been removed after Novopharm, a big customer, reached agreement with Glaxo-Wellcome on selling generic Ranitidine in America. The company is taking steps to secure adequate manufacturing capacity to meet anticipated demand.

## Allied Colloids expands

ALLIED COLLOIDS Group, the UK industrial chemicals firm, has agreed to buy Index Chemicals, a subsidiary of Australia's Index NL, for about £6.7 million. Index Chemicals manufactures a range of polymers used primarily in mining and industrial processing and has annual sales of about £4.5 million. It operates from Kwinana, near Fremantle in Western Australia, and is well-positioned to supply the Asia-Pacific economies. The acquisition should be completed by the end of the month.

## Crest Packaging buys

CREST PACKAGING has acquired the business and trading assets of Rexam Cartons and Print South from Rexam, for about £3.8 million. Rexam Cartons incurred a £900,000 loss before interest on sales of £12.7 million in 1996, but the business enjoyed a significant improvement in trading in the first quarter of the current year. Crest expects to achieve savings in the purchase of raw materials by switching production to another site when required. Crest is providing £350,000 towards integration costs.



# Irish interest rates set to rise by half a point

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

MORTGAGE and retail interest rates in the Republic of Ireland are set to rise by at least a half of a percentage point within the next few days following the Central Bank's decision late yesterday to raise its key short-term facility (STF) rate to 6.75 per cent from 6.25 per cent.

The bank announced the rise shortly after revealing a sharp rise in private sector credit growth in March. Instead of slowing slightly to take account of the Easter break, credit growth rose sharply to 18.6 per cent from 15.8 per cent in the previous month.

The bank has repeatedly expressed concern about the private sector credit trend and last year said that it wanted credit growth to fall below 10 per cent.

Yesterday's move was also a response to a technical anomaly which developed in the

Dublin money markets as a result of continued speculation against the Irish pound.

The volume of trade on Wednesday and to a lesser extent yesterday forced the Irish one-month wholesale rate up half a percentage point to 6.75 per cent, well above the Central Bank's old STF rate.

Nevertheless the Central Bank was expected to allow the wholesale rate to fall back gradually as the currency volatility subsided. Instead it decided to act decisively to choke off any inflationary threat from runaway private credit growth.

Meanwhile, the bank will also be keeping a close eye on currency markets today as the leading European dealers return to their desks after the May Day holiday.

Although the Irish pound had a quiet day compared to its dramatic rollercoaster ride on Wednesday, it nevertheless

continued its downward trend closing at 91.8 against the English pound and DM2.56.

The current run on the Irish pound started two weeks ago when Ruari Quinn, the Finance Minister, said he would prefer to see the pound trade lower in the ERM grid in the run-up to monetary union.

At the time of his remarks the Irish pound was trading at DM2.67, well ahead of its so-called ERM central rate of DM2.41. Currency dealers decided that the Irish currency was a good one-way bet.

However, until Wednesday their profit-making plan was being thwarted by the Central Bank which was active in the currency markets, supporting the Irish pound against sterling.

According to most analysts, the bank's intervention was prompted by concerns over the inflationary threat from high-priced British goods.



Destination Germany and Scandinavia for Phil White, chief executive, and Colin Child, of National Express

## Europe next stop for bus rivals

BY FRASER NELSON

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport group, is poised to move into the Scandinavian bus market, bringing it in head-to-head competition with Stagecoach, its UK rival.

Colin Child, finance director, said the company is in advanced stages of talks with

a European transport group with a view to joining forces and bidding for bus services in Germany and Scandinavia. He said a formal announcement will be made in the near future.

The company has already won five of the UK's privatised rail franchises, including Midland Main Line,

and has 80 per cent of the UK bus market. Stagecoach is the largest independent bus operator in the Scandinavian market. It bought Swebus, the Swedish operator, last summer. Although based in Sweden, Swebus runs long-haul routes through Finland and Denmark, giving it a commanding share of the

market. Other Scandinavian bus services are due to be put out to tender in autumn. In Germany, however, the city-to-city market is dominated by railways and the vast majority of town buses are in state hands.

National Express has so far restricted itself primarily to the UK.

## UC shares fall after warning

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Utility Cable, the largest duct digging and cable laying company, plunged yesterday after it issued a profits warning with its interim results.

The warning came as a surprise. Brokers had been generally bullish on the company, which had been broadening its operations away from the core cable laying business.

Utility Cable said it had experienced operational difficulties in the cable laying side and made exceptional losses in certain completed contracts.

As a result, it reported an 18 per cent fall, to £1.3 million, in pre-tax profits in the half year to February 28.

An interim dividend of 0.27p, unchanged from last year, is to be paid on May 30. The lower profits "may be reflected in the full-year dividend," the company said.

The shares, whose year high was 23p, fell 30 per cent to 12½p.

## Hickson in £28m sale of chemical subsidiary

BY MARTIN BARROW

HICKSON International, the speciality chemicals company, took a further step towards completing the overhaul of the business with the £28.5 million sale of Hickson PharmaChem to Warner-Lambert yesterday. PharmaChem specialises in the contract manufacture of fine chemicals for the pharmaceutical and healthcare markets. It operates from a 35-acre site at Ringaskiddy, close to Cork Harbour in Ireland. The business, formerly Angus Fine Chemicals, was acquired for £23 million in August 1992.

Last year PharmaChem incurred an operating loss of £4.8 million before exceptional items on turnover of £16.1 million. Net assets were £23.4 million at the year-end.

The disposal is the latest stage in a widespread restructuring launched in November 1995 to reduce borrowings and stem losses in underperforming sectors. In November Hickson Manco, a performance chemicals subsidiary, was sold to its management for £26.5 million.

Elsewhere within the group hundreds of jobs have been lost and other subsidiaries have been sold or closed in an effort to reverse the company's ailing fortunes, which hit rock bottom in 1995 when pre-tax losses were £45 million.

The company has been under pressure from its banks to reduce debt further and yesterday it estimated that pro forma net debts would have about £30 million at the end of December, with net gearing of 27 per cent.

PharmaChem will now operate under the name Warner-Lambert Cork.

## Legal threat for Burger King over pricing

BY GEORGE SWEET

BURGER KING, the burger chain run by Grand Metropolitan, faces legal action from one of its largest independent franchisees over claims that franchisees are forced to buy materials from a supplier approved by GrandMet at unfairly high prices.

In response to the claim, filed in the High Court last week, Burger King said that it is "ready and willing to defend itself in court".

Solicitors for the J&H Kyrris Partnership, which operates 12 Burger King restaurants in the East Midlands and Yorkshire, have issued a writ claiming that between 1991 and 1997 the partnership paid about £8 million more than it would have, had it chosen its own suppliers or distributors.

Earlier this week the J&H Kyrris Partnership was put into administration. Of the 450 Burger King restaurants in Britain, only 85 are operated directly by the company. The rest are operated under franchise.

The Kyrris writ also claims that Burger King "pursued a policy of unfairly high pricing of the products" and that Kyrris and other suppliers "have been prevented from proposing alternative suppliers and have thereby been unduly restricted in their choice of suppliers".

Holroyd Meek of Manchester is the exclusive supplier to all franchised Burger King outlets. J&H Kyrris is making a claim under European law because it says it would be possible to obtain supplies at a more competitive rate from other EU countries.

## Brazil has to delay \$5bn privatisation

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

BRAZIL has rescheduled the auction of Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), the state-owned mining business, after losing legal challenges to the sale. The delay could last three months as the Government fends off 120 lawsuits aimed at halting the sale.

The \$5.5 billion sale is the largest attempt in Latin America and is seen as a test of President Fernando Cardoso's commitment to reform the economy. The sale has mobilised considerable opposition, ranging from former presidents Itamar Franco and José Sarney to Brazil's Roman Catholic bishops, and peasant and military groups and unions. They

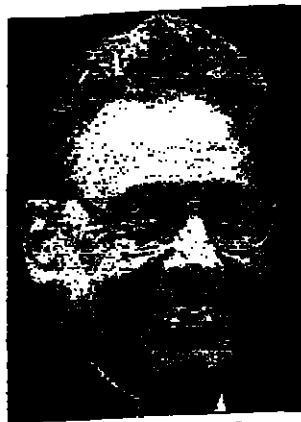
say the Government is selling the country's mineral wealth to foreigners for a pittance.

Vale is the leading gold producer in Latin America. It employs about 15,000 people in mines, railways, shipping, aluminium factories and steel mills. The privatisation of what is also the world's largest iron ore producer hinges on a ruling by a Superior Court judge on a government appeal against a number of court injunctions blocking the sale. The Government tried this week to have all 120 lawsuits combined.

But the judge wanted more information and gave the Government ten days to produce documents pertaining to all the suits. Should he choose to analyse each case, the privatisation could be delayed for up to three months.

Antonio Kandir, the Planning Minister, said the Government aims to have all the documents ready within 48 hours and hopes to go ahead with the auction today.

Two groups are ready to bid for control of CVRD: one led by CSN, a local steel firm, and another headed by Grupo Votorantim, Brazil's largest private industrial conglomerate, along with South Africa's Anglo-American Corp.



Cardoso: test of commitment

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## Shares end at a record

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1987 Top 100 Company

Assets

Liabilities

1987 Top 100 Company

Assets

Liabilities

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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Miller Brewing Co.

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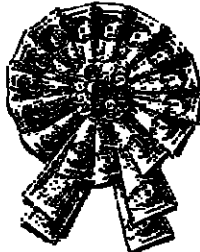
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**We'll take the cash.  
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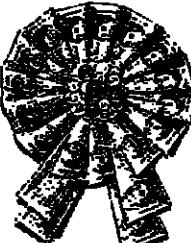


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**OIL & GAS**

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## CHOICE 1

**Choreographer Laurie Booth's latest work is given its London premiere**

VENUE: Tomorrow at the Queen Elizabeth Hall



## CHOICE 2

**Festival time in Brighton: the arts jamboree invades the seaside resort**

VENUE: From tomorrow at various venues

## THE TIMES ARTS



## CHOICE 3

**George Eliot's novel, Adam Bede, is brought to the stage in Derby**

VENUE: Previews tonight at the Playhouse Theatre



## THEATRE

**Ayckbourn's early and unconvincing *Absent Friends* is revived in Greenwich**

## LONDON

**THE BIG BAND** A concert in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the band, featuring the original members and a new generation of jazz musicians. 8pm, Royal Albert Hall, £10-15.

**RHYTHM & BLUES** The dance and choreographer Laurie Booth presents an evening of contemporary dance. 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, £10-15.

**SPRING AWAKENING** A production of the play by Henrik Ibsen, featuring a new cast. 8pm, Royal Albert Hall, £10-15.

**ART** David Hockney's new work, featuring large-scale paintings. 8pm, Royal Albert Hall, £10-15.

**BALEGAARD** A production of the play by Caryl Churchill, featuring a new cast. 8pm, Royal Albert Hall, £10-15.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** A production of the musical, featuring a new cast. 8pm, Royal Albert Hall, £10-15.

**THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMANN** A production of the play by Seamus Heaney, featuring a new cast. 8pm, Royal Albert Hall, £10-15.

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## WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

**ELSEWHERE** The annual Brighton Festival gets underway tomorrow with a programme of events across the city. 8pm, Brighton Festival, £10-15.

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## LONDON GALLERIES

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## THEATRE: An ancient Ayckbourn revived; and a new drama from Peter Whelan

## Here's one he made earlier

Going to two Ayckbourn plays on consecutive nights turned out to be a mistake, although it had seemed a good idea. First, take in the new play at Scarborough, and then, come down to Greenwich to look at one of his earliest. Compare and contrast, that sort of thing. Is the man's comedy darker than it used to be, or paler, or maybe it comes in stripes these days, like wasps, or the Greek flag?

How have the Ayckbourn concerns, and the Ayckbourn skill in decking them out, altered since 1974, when *Absent Friends* was written? Are these useful questions anyway, or is it enough to consider how the two plays rate on the laughter?

The older of the two does not earn a high rating. There are laughs, certainly, generally at the comical disjunction between the sprightly mood of Character A and the misery of Character B, C, D, E and F. A does not realise how B-F are feeling and goes breezily, heedlessly on, spreading his fatuous optimism until they would jump out of windows or gulp bleach if only they did not feel too dejected even to move.

*Absent Friends* is the one about Colin whose fiancée has just drowned. Some old mates invite him to drop round one afternoon for a spot of tea and sympathy, but of course theirs are the lives that are coming apart at every seam. It was the first play in which Ayckbourn revealed that he was more than a master of intricate

stagecraft, who took delight in setting himself taxing problems of construction (three acts taking place in three kitchens on three successive Christmas Eves, or one couple invited to two dinner parties on different days but both dinners being shown simultaneously).

He shows us lives of undiscussed desperation, patiently borne or finding an outlet in varieties of rancour. Colin is one of Ayckbourn's good cheer freaks; not in his case a DIY bore as well, though it often comes with this psychological territory. Implacably looking on the bright side, he brings out the bleak side of everyone else. Yes, this can be funny, but once the main joke is indicated, that's it: foreseeable variations of the theme.

More damagingly, the middle-class mid-century Middle England types he concentrated on at this time often seem oddly unreal today, in attitude, if not yet in language. The no-nonsense honesty survives best, and right to the end I enjoyed the company of the gum-chewing, disillusioned Evelyn (Gillian Tinkins). But while Michael Simpkins' direction capably uses the depth of the stage for treks to the kitchen and front door, he places the seats in a straight line along the front. Unconvincing in itself, this makes the play look more than ever like an old-fashioned discussion group.

THE arrival of a new baritone and a couple of performances to settle the nerves have brought zest and musical freshness to the Garden's revival of *Elisir*, coolly received by Rodney Milnes and others when it opened. Simon Keenlyside is now Set Belcore, a part he has sung at New York's Met but not previously in London.

He has always made full use of his angular body and still-like legs, but never to greater effect than in Donizetti's masterpiece. He enters as a dashing red sergeant, handed bouquets and profusion by his platoon, while he circles Adina like a predatory stork. With his optimistical-



Caroline Holdaway, David Pollan, Richard Derrington, Louisa Rix in *Absent Friends*

## A dream's slow death

Peter Whelan has a truly variable gift for writing issues out of historical quirks. Last year he not only tackled the state of the monarchy in *Divine Right* for Birmingham Rep, but the deliciously indelicate scandal about Shakespeare's eldest daughter in *The Herbal Bed* for the RSC. Though the latter is now happily squinting in the West End, this is not the obvious destination of *Overture*, a slow, sticky drama playing at the New Vic Theatre, set in a crumbling country house in the Midlands.

Self-made tyrant Martin Rydall is sinking every penny into turning a rotting country pile into a New Age arcadia. His is a philanthropic dream, to salvage beauty from the clutches of commerce. But Martin's blind enthusiasm is harnessed to the vested interests of a failed architect, Philip, and a noble young piano teacher, Sian, who is

rather more concerned about temple dancing in Ladakh than teaching scales. Cold water is poured on Martin's idyllic schemes by his accountant daughter Aileen (Sarah Mortimer), and his son Paul, back from self-imposed exile in Australia. There are issues here about what beauty means to the privileged and what it means to the poor. But they are tortuously worked out and finally succumbed by the inevitable family inquisition.

With his fishing cap and baggy cardigan, Andrew Neil's Martin cuts a sort of Richard Briers figure without the rumour. His dreams are duly steam-rolled by Paul's inability to forgive, and Aileen's expedient eye on the finances.

Sean O'Callaghan's Paul pads around the stage like a surly undertaker, carrying his dislike of his father around like a sack of chips. At any moment his sardonic, Shakespearean self-pity threatens to break into outright soliloquy. Peter Cheeseman's production gets bogged down by this overly emotive acting, and ponderous dialogue. Opportunities to laugh are quietly snuffed off Sue Condie's in-the-round, creek floorboard set. It all adds up to a rather long and tedious day's journey into night.

The real weakness is the lack of emotional credibility. Neil's Martin lacks edges of any sort. Perhaps I've got it wrong and the horror of this character is his sheer vanity. Maybe the point of this production is that everyone looks preposterously out of place.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

## Bottle gets a shake-up

upturned moustaches and his slicked-back hair he is clearly a bit of a boomer, a character from a Flashman novel. But voice, not mere looks, will win him what he wants. Keenlyside's baritone is in prime condition at the moment, full of swagger for Belcore's opening aria and gleeful as he signs up Nemorino for the squad at a knock-down price. His first Giovanni is on the way and should be well worth the wait. For now his Belcore is a character

to treasure.

Angela Gheorghiu's Adina eschews the charm-school interpretation once favoured by the likes of Freni and Grist in the part and instead turns her into a haughty man-eater for the first act.

JOHN HIGGINS

<b>ART GALLERIES</b> <b>PARTON GALLERY</b> 22-23 May The Judge's House, a collection by Sir Stephen Parton. 11-12 May, 11-12 May, 11-12 May. St. James's Palace, London SW1 1AA.	<b>THEATRES</b> <b>ADRIAN</b> Legendary Entertainer <b>JERRY LEWIS</b> A hilarious new comedy with heart. Red, white and blue. 29 May. Opens 4 June. 0171 412 1177 (24hrs). 0171 412 1177 (24hrs). 0171 412 1177 (24hrs).	<b>APOLLO 20th</b> 0171 494 5070 0171 494 5070 (0171 494 5070) 0171 494 5070 (0171 494 5070)	<b>DOMINION</b> 0171 656 1885/0890 20-24 May 0171 656 1885/0890 20-24 May 0171 656 1885/0890	<b>GARRICK</b> 0171 494 5082/12 1957 0171 494 5082/12 1957 (0171 494 5082/12 1957) 0171 494 5082/12 1957 (0171 494 5082/12 1957)	<b>LYCEUM</b> 0171 656 1808 0171 656 1808 (0171 656 1808) 0171 656 1808 (0171 656 1808)	<b>OLD VIC</b> 0171 929 7616 0171 929 7616 (0171 929 7616) 0171 929 7616 (0171 929 7616)	<b>PROCADILLY THEATRE</b> 0171 369 1734 0171 369 1734 (0171 369 1734) 0171 369 1734 (0171 369 1734)	<b>ST MARTIN'S</b> 0171 896 1443 0171 896 1443 (0171 896 1443) 0171 896 1443 (0171 896 1443)
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## DANCE

Glen Tetley's new Covent Garden ballet proves to be exhausting if not exhilarating



## MUSIC

In Manchester the Hallé explores the infuriating genius of Percy Grainger

## THE TIMES ARTS



## THEATRE

Battered but not beaten, Jill Fraser vows to put her Watermill Theatre back on its feet



## TOMORROW

Traditional or modern, the top events for the Bank Holiday are in The Times Directory

# Keeping them on their feet

DANCE: Debra Craine on the world premiere of Glen Tetley's disappointing new commission for Covent Garden

Space and spaciousness have often been defining characteristics of American choreography. And here they are again in Glen Tetley's ballet *Amores*, his first new work for Covent Garden in 17 years. The wide open vistas of the rugged North American landscape (suggested so effectively by Nadine Baylis's beautiful backdrop) seem to embrace the six dancers and goad them on to even greater endeavour.

And even greater energy, too. For this must be one of the most taxing ballets these dancers have ever had to face, a half-hour of relentless, panting, physical exertion that pushed even the Amazonian Darcey Bussell to the brink of exhaustion on opening night.

Works like *Amores* have their place in the repertoire because, if nothing else, they do breed strength and stamina in performance. But Olympian endurance is only part of the package. Choreography needs to drive its own creative impulses, as well as just busy its cast, and this is where *Amores* falls down.

Set to three pieces of music by the contemporary American composer Michael Torke, *Amores* (Spanish for love affair) finds Tetley in love with the physique of his dancers and excited by their possibilities as machines of performance. He has chosen his cast well. Bussell is a big and bold mover; Leonie Benoit is fleet and supple; Deborah Bull is crisp and elegant. While the trio of men — Stuart Cassidy, William Trevitt and Michael Nunn — make an impressively virile lineup.

The choreography highlights their obvious qualities as leading artists of the Royal Ballet, yet bypasses the opportunity to explore them as individuals. The lifts are daringly high, the stretches indulgently long, but the accumulation of movement, no matter how attractive some of it is, exposes the lack of variety in Tetley's vocabulary.

Tetley takes his cue from the music, which has the propulsive force of minimalism and the melodic grandeur of a Hollywood theme tune. But like Torke's score — a kind of marriage of Aaron Copland and Steve Reich — the choreography is not highly original. And the paucity of inventive writing — coupled with the disappointingly thin structure — means momentum frequently flags.

At the age of 71, Tetley has a lifetime of accomplished and eclectic choreography behind him, from the ground-breaking *Pierrot Lunaire*, which set the modern world on fire in 1962, to the comfortable balletic hits of his later years, like *Alce* and *La Ronde*. *Amores*, though, is unlikely to stand among his more memorable creations.

For sheer unwavering originality in pure dance, we had the master himself: Balanchine. His *Symphony in C* closed this triple bill in consummate style. The germ of Balanchine's genius sparkles throughout his 1947 creation. Each movement of Bizet's symphony has a radiant choreographic personality — pride, serenity, vivacity or joy — and develops it with clarity, wit and sublime musical sophis-



Darcey Bussell and Stuart Cassidy, taken to the brink of exhaustion in Glen Tetley's new *Amores*

cation. The three ballerinas of *Amores*, now restored to vigorous health, joined Nicola Tranah in a class performance.

If all had gone according to plan, Balanchine would also have opened what was scheduled to be

an all-American bill. Unfortunately, his divine *Apollo* — with Irek Mukhamedov taking the first-night lead — was cancelled after problems arose in gaining casting approval from the George Balanchine Trust. Instead, we got *The*

*Judas Tree*, Kenneth MacMillan's ghastly gang rape shocker. There is little justification for MacMillan's ridiculous and convoluted ballet, but at least it gave Mukhamedov his allotted stage time on Wednesday night.

# Bobby's back, disappointed

AMERICAN THEATRE: Edward Karam on the premiere of David Mamet's new play

The last time anyone saw Bobby Gould was in David Mamet's hilarious 1989 one-act play, *Bobby Gould in Hell*. The year before, Mamet had introduced Bobby, the morally questionable Hollywood producer in *Speed-the-Plow*, a man with the power to "green-light" pictures. In the follow-up play, Bobby tried to convince an interrogator that he was a Good Man. The one-act ended with Bobby admitting he was a Bad Man, repenting, and being shown the door by his infernal hosts.

Now Bobby is back in *The Old Neighborhood*, a trio of playlets premiering in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as part of the American Repertory Theatre's New Stages Festival, and this time pain is inescapable. Mamet, in three unusually intimate acts, shows Bobby in rendezvous with his best friend from high school; his sister and brother-in-law; and his ex-girlfriend, Rebecca Pidgeon's cool, chic "D". Even as he exchanges ribald memories of sexual conquests with Vincent Guastafierro's Runyon-esque lug Joey, there is a strong current of middle-aged melancholy and distress. The discussion of past relationships reveals disappointments that run deep among the characters.

In a beige-curtained room designed by Kevin Rignold and furnished with only a table, scotch and glasses, Bobby agonises to Joey about losing his Jewish roots. Bobby's gentle wife has left him, taking their son, Joey, asked about his wife, replies: "I am praying every night I can get through life without murder." Joey romanticises Europe: he dreams of working at a forge, where brute strength would bring him distinction. "I know there's power in me, but it's not coming out," he cries.

Bobby finds his sister Jolly, too, is tormented. Unloved by her parents and denied her inheritance by their stepbrother, she shuffles around her kitchen in a plaid bathrobe, cursing them in lan-

guage borrowed from some of Mamet's male characters. Brooke Adams impressively shows Jolly's fragile self-esteem, veering between the love of her husband Carl (Jack Willis) and the memory of her mother's cruelty.

"D" appears more self-possessed in a café with Bobby. In a virtual monologue, she rambles about gardens, the weather, and her dreams of primitive tribes that mutilate themselves. Although



Unhappy siblings: Brooke Adams and Tony Shalhoub

Pidgeon's carefully modulated performance shows the discomfort underneath, and the final goodbyes provide a bittersweet catharsis for the trilogy, the act drags. Better direction than that of Scott Zigler might have helped. Throughout the production, lines that are written to overlap or be interrupted are delivered in *totò*, followed by the next actor clearly beginning the next line. The effect is a stiltedness that undermines Mamet's rhythms. With virtually no physical action and so heavy a reliance on language *The Old Neighborhood* needs a more careful production.

# Trouble at the Watermill

When the Governor of Hampshire (Tony Bell) steps on to the roof of the Watermill Theatre in Berkshire next week to hear the terms of surrender from warlike Harry (Jamie Glover), waiting below with his clanking cohort to storm the citadel, there will be a more acute sense of siege than even director Edward Hall had in mind.

The hope is that the surrender of the fortifications to Henry V will be a symbolic lifting of the "blockade" leading to seasons of plenty for the Watermill, the tiny producing theatre which must be one of the most beguiling in the country, but which found itself effectively cut off for almost 18 months during the Newbury bypass demonstrations.

"It was an extraordinarily unreal, eerie feeling. It looked and felt like a battle front — we could see the whole thing being acted out before us, 400 yards down the lane, but it wasn't part of us," says Jill Fraser, who acquired the Watermill 15 years ago, consigned it to a trust, and has run it ever since.

It has always been a small miracle that it has continued producing and has withstood the economic onslaughts that have closed bigger and better-resourced theatres.

Although the Watermill, hidden away at Baginbun, in horsey Lambourn Valley, was operating throughout the period, many habitual audience members assumed it was

Simon Tait on a Berkshire battle for survival both on and off stage



Jill Fraser: "We're still suffering from bypass syndrome"

closed and stayed away, and the Watermill lost a crippling £40,000 last season.

So far this season has been no better, with disappointing reviews for its first two productions, a review called *Mixed Doubles* followed by a new play by Alex Jones, *Deadwood* — a *Soldier Returns*, which is an eerie story about a First World War soldier coming home with bitter revenge to exact. The play was turned down by several producing houses who believed the subject-matter too difficult for their audiences; in the event it

less than half-filled the Watermill's 216 seats.

"If it weren't for the good reviews and the word of mouth, I'd think there was something wrong with the productions, but there plainly isn't," says Fraser. "Those who come are loving it, and we're still suffering from the bypass syndrome. People aren't booking. It's almost the doors trade that inner-city theatres get, but because people don't really pass our doors out here it's not sustaining us."

Henry V is a promenade production in the meadows

surrounding the theatre. This is the high point in the Watermill's summer season, which is also its thirtieth anniversary season, and the theatre is appealing to audiences and other well-wishers to support a £250,000 appeal to save it from closure.

"Henry is a bit of a battle cry for us. Because we're rehearsing outdoors, the sound of it resonates down the valley, and people are coming in to find out what's happening," Fraser says.

Because the Watermill is out of the way, casts tend to stay in the accommodation Fraser can provide for them in the outbuildings, and there is a permanent ensemble sense to the place which appeals to both actors and audiences.

The Watermill has enthusiastic supporters. The appeal brochure carries earnest pleas from the likes of Adrian Noble, Richard Eyre, Alan Ayckbourn and David Suchet. For this is the theatre where Rufus Sewell and Sean Bean began their stage careers, where Susannah York, Julia McKenzie and Michael Pennington have performed in recent seasons; where Sir Michael Hordern was president of the trust (Anton Rodgers took over on Hordern's death), and which brought us such new works as Fay Weldon's *Woodworm*.

Hordern, who lived a few doors away, was initially opposed to the theatre on his doorstep. Then his old friend Peggy Mount played here, and held court in the courtyard after performances with a bottle or two of wine, and one summer evening Hordern joined her. Soon afterwards he became an enthusiastic president of the trust.

The Watermill gets 10 per cent of its income through subsidy, and although both Southern Arts and Newbury Council admit that their contribution is not enough, there is little prospect of an increase. So if *Henry* doesn't succeed and the appeal also fails, Fraser has to face the truth that the Watermill will have to close.

"You can't survive with no money, but we're just not thinking about the ultimate at the moment."

Henry V is at the Watermill Theatre, near Newbury, May 6-June 7 (box office 01635 42044)

CONCERTS: Grainger remembered; and a fine pianist in a rough patch

A Percy Grainger festival is like a weekend with a compulsive talker — not one of those you can mentally switch off, but one who so regularly illuminates the flow of trivialities with something witty or truthful or even beautiful that you just have to keep listening.

For the BBC Philharmonic, which is also involved in a major Grainger recording project, it must be a considerable trial of professional patience. For the Hallé Orchestra, however, which contributed just one piece to the BBC Grainger Festival in the Bridgewater Hall, it was probably an amusing diversion.

Even so, the BBC Philharmonic could not have chosen a better piece to hand over to their colleagues in the Hallé than the Suite on Danish Folk

# Ill-treated folk

Tunes. As a work by a composer reputedly sympathetic to folk song, it is a scarcely credible exercise in tormenting the melodically and harmonically innocent.

From the beginning, when a superfluous piano cadenza merges into sustained organ harmonies to herald the entry of a solo trumpet, it seems all too likely that Grainger's unfortunate Jutland melodies are going to be vulgarised, sentimentalised and generally ill-treated. And so they are, in structures varying between the incoherent and, in the final Jutish Medley, the perfunctory.

The illumination in this case was in a kind of encore

Hallé/Schmidt Manchester

from the pianist, Martin Jones, who delivered a heroic account of a breathtakingly brilliant arrangement of the *Valse de Fleurs* from Casse-Noisette. Any musician who could do what the 22-year-old Grainger does here, in transferring to the piano so much of the colour and textural detail of Tchaikovsky's orchestral score, was surely nothing less than a genius. So where did he go wrong elsewhere?

The rest of the concert was not concerned with that prob-

lem. It had begun with Ole Schmidt conducting an interpretation — at first enchanting and then, after his awkwardly accomplished tempo change, somewhat laboured — of Sibelius's *En Saga*.

It ended with a performance of Nielsen's Fourth Symphony (the *Inextinguishable*) remarkable above all for its frankness. Except in the pastiche rocooco passages, where the Hallé woodwind played with exceptional refinement, Schmidt resisted any temptation to adjust the balance, blend the colours or resort to any of those devices designed to conceal the truth about a score.

The result was not comfortable to the ear but it made a scarily honest appeal to the conscience.

GERALD LARNER

# Brahms given rough treatment

Brahms is known to have been clumsy — but not that clumsy. When Nikolai Demidenko crashed his way through the finale of the Second Piano Sonata, notes flew in all directions, and a surrational of wincing and dismay was heard throughout the Wigmore Hall.

This was, after all, the composer's anniversary month, and Demidenko's performance at the start of a tripartite "Romantic Voyage", to be continued in May and June, was not kind. Technical clumsiness, in moderation, can be forgiven. But this seemed to be the physical manifestation of a mental aggression and a spiritual insensitivity. In the heroic octaves and passionate energy of the first movement, and in the tolling power of the finale, a great heart is beating. These were just large gestures.

The reverse side of Demidenko's virtuoso but soulless way with Brahms was heard in the three Intermezzi of Op 117. Demidenko characterised them distinctively enough, with a hypnotic and cunningly voiced-out equilibrium of voices in the first. But effects such as these seemed ready-packed rather than created out of a live, immediate response to the

Nikolai Demidenko Wigmore Hall

music. As a result, the playing sounded mannered: in the second Intermezzo in the form of an almost grotesquely laboured *molto espressivo*, and in the third through a refusal to seek simplicity.

Before the interval, Schumann had kick-started the series in no uncertain terms. The eight *Novelletten*, inspired by the composer's love for Clara Wieck, revealed more of the positive side of Demidenko's idiosyncratic pianism. The short sharp shock of the opening march was compelling in its compacted energy and brilliantly focused chords; the waltz of the fourth piece was a beguilingly imagined pas de deux, moving from distance to foreground in a whirl of taut rhythm and sly rubato.

Some in the audience would have found Schumann's typical Eusebius/Florestan, introvert/extrovert contrasts over-violently drawn. Yet the final *Novelletto* was a chilling glimpse into the chasm between the two, which made its mark.

HILARY FINCH

EN

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POP 1

"You just know when you're good," say the boys from Embrace — and they are probably right



POP 2

The original members have vanished, but Dr. Feelgood still rolls on after 25 years



POP 3

Ernest Ranglin, the veteran who invented reggae and ska, is back in the groove



POP 4

Steve Winwood eases himself back into the limelight with a low-key club gig in London

# Eight arms to hold you enthralled

They love the Beatles, they're Northerners, there are two brothers in the band, and soon Embrace will be as big as Oasis too

You would presume they had played a couple of stroboscopes in Brazil, at the very least. When the limited release of Embrace's *All You Good Good People* hit the shops in February, the music industry started guessing which superstar had recorded it anonymously.

Although *Good People* was, on the surface, merely about sorting yourself out after the end of a relationship, it seemed to be informed by a couple of passionate affairs with supermodels and the worries of private jet ownership. Embrace sounded like a band that had already driven a Rolls-Royce into a swimming pool — or maybe even, in a moment of extremely high jinks, turned a Rolls-Royce into a swimming pool, complete with tropical fish. That enormous, mountain-moving swell of triumphalism that irresistible stellar tug in the chorus... no way could *Good People* have ever been recorded by some unknowns from Leeds.



CAITLIN MORAN

But it really was — and, furthermore, it was recorded by a band that, at the time, had played only 12 gigs.

"We just kind of decided to... be great," Danny McNamara, singer and half of Embrace's songwriting duo, says simply. "A lot of bands seem to have given a 'Don't pass great — just go straight to OK-ish' card, and stuck to it. That's all I can presume. No one seems to be really going for it these days, not

since the Stone Roses went rubbish and Kurt Cobain died. There aren't any bands you can believe in any more."

"Yeah — you have to go back and listen to Curtis Mayfield, Aretha Franklin, the Beatles and, well, the Charlatans to hear bands that seem limitless," Richard, Danny's younger brother and Embrace's guitarist, chips in.

"The Charlatans?" Danny yelps. "You put the Charlatans in that list and not Marvin Gaye?"

"I've listened to that Charlatans album more than I've listened to Marvin Gaye," Richard argues back.

"I don't believe you!" Danny huffs.

Hang on, what have we here? Two Northern brothers with unquenchable self-belief, into the Beatles, kicking out songs as large as Mars and fond of inter-familial scrapping? Haven't we done this one?

"Ah yes, the Oasis comparisons," Danny says calmly. "I knew we were going to get those. Just like I knew we were going to get Single of the Week in the music press, and loads of radio play, and a booking for Wembley Arena this time next year. I mean, obviously it's not booked yet, but I just know. Noel Gallagher said our stuff was awesome, which was nice. 'cos I like some of his stuff."

Richard: "Yeah, *Cum On Feel The Noise* was fantastic."

Danny: "Yeah, and *I Am The Walrus*. Top tune that."

The McNamara brothers started



There aren't any bands you can believe in any more: the Leeds quartet Embrace launch their manifesto for trust in pop politics

giving up their friends for music at the age of 16. "They'd come knocking on the door, asking us down the pub, and we'd just point at our guitars," Richard says. "After about a year, they stopped knocking." At the time, Embrace were a nameless concept doing "PJ Harvey-stuff without the class; it was

all very 'I hate myself and I want to die'."

When the property boom made a small squelchy sound and collapsed, the McNamara's father left the construction industry and started making sheds. "We worked for him. Made some top sheds," Danny says. "Then we went on to

construction sites. The people who work there are really alright. Everyone thinks they're all redneck bigots reading *The Sun*, but they're really cool. And if anyone does make a racist comment, you just say: 'Oi, that's really out of order', and discuss it with them, and they respect you."

"It's only if you say nothing and just laugh along with them that they start distrusting you. They can always tell if you're pretending to be someone else."

Danny was still convinced he couldn't sing, and would sit for hours with an acoustic guitar, wailing until he could hit all the

notes Richard was writing for him. "Richard and my dad were the only people who thought I was any good," Danny says. "My dad knew nothing about modern music, but he was convinced we were going to make it. We're quite a musical family. Our brother's got a band too, he's the coolest out of all of us. He's more confident than either of us." One can only tremble at the thought.

"Our cousin's a dance artist," Richard continues. "My dad's uncle's brother's son is in Jamiroquai. One of our distant relatives came third in the Eurovision song contest when Buck's Fizz won and did backing vocals on U2's second album. We've got some weird, guitar-shaped genes in our blood."

An unseemly A&R scramble ensued when Embrace first started playing live. "We were wined and dined," Danny says, rolling his eyes in a bemused way. "We went from being Northern dorks looking at a taco going, 'What's this?' to connoisseurs of fine wines and brandies. We're right little Lloyd Grossmans now."

"And we still prefer chips," Richard says, ingenuously.

After signing to Hut Records and being given one of the biggest and artistically empowering contracts ever given to an unknown band, Embrace are sitting on the powder-keg of their first proper release, *The Fireworks EP*. A fiery, urgent brass squeal with a power that could flatten a tower-blocks a flip-side of tearful balladry and delicate finger-picking, it should curdle the Top 20 with no effort at all.

"You just know when you're good," Danny says. "I mean, you can just hear it." And indeed you can.

● The *Fireworks EP* is released on Monday by Hut. Embrace start a nationwide tour on Tuesday

Why did Ernest Ranglin turn down the chance to direct Bob Marley's music?

## The man who gave us reggae

Ernest Ranglin hardly looks like a man who changed the face of modern music. The inventor of both ska and reggae, the maestro who taught Bob Marley the rhythms that conquered the pop world, he is dressed in casual grey slacks and an anorak, the very antithesis of the rastafarians whose soundtrack he created.

Almost 40 years ago Ranglin cut the very first disc on Island Records, after Chris Blackwell, the label's owner, heard him playing in a hotel at Montego Bay. It was the start of an illustrious career, for Ranglin, now 65, went on to arrange, direct, write or play on just about every great record to come out of Jamaica through the glory years of the 1960s and 1970s, from Millie's *My Boy Lollipop* — the 1964 hit that brought ska to world attention — to the Melodians' anthemic *Rivers of Babylon*. He worked with Jimmy Cliff, Prince Buster and the Wailers and, having invented the ska rhythm, was the musical doctor at the birth of reggae. At his height Ranglin was so much in demand that he turned down an invitation to



Ernest Ranglin: always a jazzman at heart

become Marley's musical director. Strangely for a man with such a pedigree, Ranglin's real love is jazz. He semi-retired to Florida in the 1970s, but is back with a new album, *The Return of Barber Mack*, and a string of British dates this summer. These days he plays a mature and sophisticated fusion of George Benson-style jazz grooves and clipped Jamaican ska and rock-steady rhythms, but everywhere he goes the first question inevitably concerns his relationship with Marley and how he invented reggae in the 1960s.

"We were in the studio one day playing some rock-steady rhythms, but it seemed too relaxing," he says. "You want to get the blood flowing, so I said let's speed things up a little more. The song was *Say What You Say* by Monty Morris and this beat came in, but we didn't put a name to it. It was only when people listened to the playback and said this is different than someone tried to describe the sound — 'a-reggae, a-reggae' — and the name stuck."

The association with the youthful Marley began shortly after, when the still unknown singer visited Coxson Dodd's studio in Kingston, Jamaica where Ranglin was musical director. "I did a slow tune for him and then a few ska tunes. I had the rhythms and Bob put his message to them, which was good." Later, when he was an international star, he asked me to be his teacher and his arranger but at that time I didn't want to jump. I was with Jimmy Cliff and I couldn't just leave him. But Bob took reggae to the world. He had his message and I'm proud of him."

There is no envy in Ranglin's voice, and you get the strong impression that he has no regrets about turning down the gig. He was never into the rasta or rebel causes with which reggae became associated, and is clearly uneasy about the street violence in Kingston which developed around the scene and which led to the murder of two members of the Wailers and an attempt on Marley's own life.

"Reggae is a nice rhythm, and if people want to say it is rasta music that is their concern," Ranglin says. "All I wanted is for it to be played properly."

With the move to America and his immersion in jazz, Ranglin was really coming full circle, for he had begun playing jazz with people such as Joe Harriott in the big-band era of the 1940s. "That's where I learnt," he says. "I watched the brass section and learnt about the guitar from other instruments. I'd always be asking the arranger questions. That was my school."

*Memories of Barber Mack* is his tribute to the music that has inspired him over half a century. "Barber Mack" was one of the old musicians who played mento, which was the rhythm of the day, and I was lucky enough to hear him when I was a small boy. He was a lovely man and they used to say he played the saxophone so good that smoke came out of his instrument."

By now Ranglin's soft laughter means he is struggling to finish the story. "Then I found him backstage with a cigarette in his mouth blowing into the instrument until it was full of smoke. He went back on stage and people would say he's so hot he's on fire. He was one of the greats. I am coming from that era to today and this album records the journey."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

● *Memories of Barber Mack* will be released by Island Jamaica Jazz on May 10



Look in vain for Wilko, Sparko, Lee and the Big Figure, but rest assured that this is still the mighty Dr. Feelgood

## The first no-quarter-century

Perhaps the hardest-working band in rock, Dr. Feelgood, is 25 years old. Christopher Somerville reports

The cabin attendant on the flight to Switzerland widens her eyes at Kevin Morris and says: "Aht! You are the real Dr. Feelgood?" "Something like that," says Morris, enjoying her surprise. Perhaps she is puzzled at the 41-year-old drummer's polite request for fruit juice. Avant members of rock bands supposed to gulp tequila straight from the bottle?

Something like the real Dr. Feelgood has been doing the rounds of the world's pubs, clubs and concert halls for a quarter of a century. It has been a long haul since 1979 and the band's lone Top Ten hit, *Milk & Alcohol*, longer still since Lee Brilleaux, Wilko Johnson, John B. Sparks and the Big Figure, residents of Canvey Island on the gritty Essex shore of the Thames estuary, first cobbled Dr. Feelgood together in 1972 as an outlet for their shared passion for rock'n'roll and the blues.

Twenty-five years on the road will exact a toll on any working band, especially a no-nonsense four-piece such as the Feelgoods, who earn their living by the sweat of their brow each night as they dish out their energetic, spiky British brand of R&B.

The four founder members are all gone — Wilko, Sparko and Figure to other bands, Brilleaux to an untimely death from lymphoma in 1994. But the band carries on, with its feet-on-the-ground traditions somehow still intact.

Of the four musicians scattered around the plane to their gig in Berne, Morris has invested 14 years of his life in Dr. Feelgood, and guitarist Steve Walwyn and bass player Phil Mitchell have put in 18 years between them. The grizzled 51-year-old new boy Pete Gage — lead singer and harmonica player — has not served as much Feelgood time as his colleagues. But he, too, carries himself — as befits a man who in his time has played support to Jimi Hendrix — in the manner of one whose life's rich pageant has not passed by. Five minutes in the band's company tells you that these are seasoned trouper, middle-aged family men who have seen it all, done most of it, and are not going to get over-excited about anything at this stage of the game.

It is four years since Brilleaux fronted Dr. Feelgood's previous show in Berne. Tonight the band has something to prove: namely, that Gage can cut the mustard. "I'd always admired Dr. Feelgood for what they stand for: hard work at the shopfloor level," Gage says. "There's always been a punky punchiness about their music; make it short and sharp, deliver it quick. That's why I was really

delighted when they asked me to join."

In May 1995 Gage took on one of the toughest assignments in rock: filling the shoes of Dr. Feelgood's original and inspirational frontman. As a man Brilleaux was humorous, widely read and sparklingly witty; on stage he was a consummate showman, who knew how to take a stone-cold audience and cook them to perfection. He was a master of the harmonica, an under-rated instrument which in Brilleaux's mouth would be made to squeal and purr like a cat. And the Brilleaux voice, seemingly dragged snarling from an underground vault and forced out through a mixture of gin and gravel, was like no other singer's voice. It looked highly unlikely that anyone else could lead the Feelgoods' on-stage cavalry charge with the panache of their much-mourned leader.

"I know people — especially the long-time fans — are going to be looking me up and down," says Gage on the drive from the hotel to the gig. "But I'm just one of the four corners of this unit. I'm not a clone of Lee; I believe I can offer something different. And one thing I've always been confident of is my voice."

We find about 600 people in the Bierhöbel, an old and rather beautiful music hall near the city centre. Some of the audience are fans, some are Friday-night-outers; others, the majority, are the guests of a Swiss travel company. It is a lukewarm bunch, neither enthusiastic nor indifferent. The Feelgoods take the stage with the task of winning them over.

Gage looks sharp and dangerous, holding the microphone close to his mouth to catch his cheese-grater vocals, his free hand finger-snapping frenetically away from his body, right leg pumping the rhythm like a piston.

To the singer's right, Walwyn lurches in nodding dog mode, chopping away at his well-worn Telecaster on the left, a be-shaded Mitchell stands as rock-like as a bass-player should. Behind them, Morris, in a star-spangled shirt, thunders his way round the drum kit. By the third number, a blues called *Tanqueray*, Walwyn has fallen to his knees to solo; the audience is already up on its toes, dancing and clapping along, and we know it is going to be another good night.

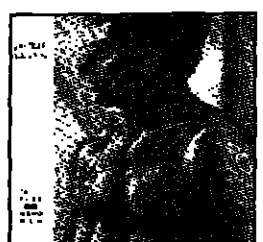
● The album *25 Years of Dr. Feelgood* is released by Grand Records (01268 66-888) on Monday. Down by the Jetty, the Dr. Feelgood Story by Tony Moon is published by Northdown on Tuesday

## HMV folk selection

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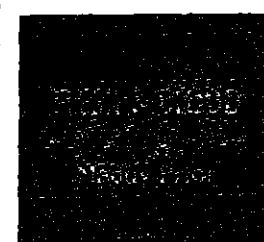
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## POP 5

Chirpy, ironic eclectic... and Swedish: the Wannadies show their class on *Baggy Me*



## POP 6

... but Paul McCartney has few new tricks on the tracks of his latest album, *Flaming Pie*

## THE TIMES POP ARTS



## POP 7

Prefab Sprout clears away the over-complicated clutter, only to reveal the modest crooner beneath



## POP 8

... while the famous faces of Tuatara beguile in several styles on *Breaking the Ethers*

# No holes in these pigeons

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair gives three cheers for the musical history lesson offered by Sweden's Wannadies

## THE WANNADIES

*Baggy Me* (Incident DIEDCD 008 £13.99) ONE of the great charms of pop in the 1990s is that you never know where you are. There was when a group like the Wannadies would have had just the one, straightforward string to their bow. The breakneck tempo of the Swedish band's hit, *Hit*, and the equally hummable tune of their new album's opening track, *Because*, would have been enough to pigeon-hole them as chirpy, power-pop lightweights after the fashion of the Rezillos, perhaps, or any of those skinny-tie American bands that came along in the wake of punk.

But in the mix'n'match free-for-all of the 1990s, things are rarely that simple. First, there are the lyrics to consider: quirky, supercilious, possibly ironic lines such as "I want to fly like a bum bum bumble bee... It might seem surreal/But it's ideal," in the Kinks-influenced *Bumble Bee Boy*, for instance. Then there are the sudden, often startling changes of pace; from the tumbling, buzz-saw guitars and exquisitely catchy melody of *Someone Somewhere* to the Herb Alpert horns and melancholy, pseudoeasy listening jazz chords of *Oh Yes/It's A Mess*, all in the wink of a digital eye.

Where will it end? In the case of *Baggy Me*, it is with an eight-minute epic called *That's All*, liberally laced with space effects, that gradually coalesces into an almost-dance rhythmic track. But no matter what mood they are in, the Wannadies' wonderfully agile command of pop idioms, combined with the sheer

zest of the enterprise, make this an album to treasure.

## PAUL MCCARTNEY

*Flaming Pie* (MPL Parlophone 7245 8 56500 £13.99) IF DAVID BOWIE is passé, where does that leave Paul McCartney? Chewing the cud big time, if his first proper album since 1993's disastrous *Off the Ground* is anything to go by. Accompanied here and there by a small bunch of his superannuated chums including Jeff Lynne, Steve Miller and Ringo Starr, the Big Mac has attempted to inject a little spontaneity into *Flaming Pie*, but still ends up with a surplus of nostalgic lyrics shackled to a grim succession of sadly arthritic performances.

The sleeve notes boast of how quickly he wrote and/or recorded numbers such as the useless R&B groove *Really Love You* (one of "three pieces evolved inside half an hour"), the sloppy yet somehow polite riffing of *Used to be Bad* ("just a jam, really") and the feeble-minded pop of *Young Boy* (written "in the time that it took Linda to cook a lunch").

Bereft of ambition — "You've got to have a laugh on this album, because I just can't be bothered doing anything else," he explains — and shamefully lacking any spark

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498



"The Wannadies' agile command of pop idioms, combined with the sheer zest of the enterprise, make *Baggy Me* an album to treasure"

of wit, passion or glamour, this is what pop sounds like with its teeth in the bedside glass.

## PREFAB SPROUT

*Andromeda Heights* (Kitchenware KWCD 30 £13.99) WHITHER Paddy McAloon, the man who can write songs for Cher and Jimmy Nail, return after a seven-year absence looking about as hip as Ted Moult, and still be a fashionable name to drop among pop's tastemakers?

The good news is that the musician at the helm of Prefab Sprout has retained in some of his more otiose inclinations and produced an album which is mercifully less

cluttered with the complicated chord changes and nervous twists in the lyrics for which he is so mysteriously revered. On *Andromeda Heights* he is at his best with the gentle whimsy of *Electric Guitars*, a song which sums up the rock star dream with the pretentious yet priceless line: "We were singled out by fate/We were quoted out of context — it was great."

The bad news is that on songs such as *Anne Marie* and *Whoever You Are*, with their swirling string arrangements and dollops of pre-rock'n'roll romanticism ("the search for love is never-ending"), there is still an unrepentantly middle-of-the-road crooner beneath the layers of modern pop sophistication.

## TUATARA

*Breaking the Ethers* (Epic 487540 £15.49) WARNING bells inevitably start ringing when you hear that musicians such as guitarist Peter Buck (of R.E.M.), drummer Barrett Martin (Screaming Trees), bassist Justin Harwood (Luna) and jazz saxophonist Skerik (various) have got together for the "sheer enjoyment" of playing something more adventurous and experimental than the music which has made them famous.

But although it is an instrumental album which takes a welcome detour from the beaten track, *Breaking the Ethers* is neither self-indulgent nor inaccessible. A

combination of jazz, Latin, rock and (faint) world music sounds, it is a collection which takes some fairly simple ideas and moulds them into fresh shapes.

Skerik's horn arrangements and Harwood's elastic (upright) bass playing are reminiscent of Morpheus's low-riding jazz-rock sound on *Dark State of Mind*, while Buck conjures a haunting, *Twin Peaks*-style twang from a six-string bass guitar on *Saturday Night Church* and *Dreamscape*. But it is Martin who does most to define the beguiling mood of the album, thanks to his constantly imaginative use of steel drums, vibes, marimba, djembe and other non-kit percussion items.

## A hero's return

THE laws of nature do not appear to apply to Steve Winwood. Playing a low-key club date to introduce his forthcoming album, *Junction 7*, he looked and sounded unnervingly unscathed by the passage of time. He might almost have been back at the Golden Eagle pub in Birmingham with his Spencer Davis Group pals.

It is probably three decades since Winwood last played this kind of shoulder-to-shoulder

## LIVE

Steve Winwood  
Hanover Grand, WI

der London venue, and the decision was well taken. Grasping for the mood of his multi-platinum, Grammy-winning reign of the 1960s, the new album falls far short of vintage Winwood, but this was certainly the way to introduce it: swathed in solid gold memories and playing with a rock-solid band.

He opened with *I'm a Man*, trademark Hammond at full tilt and Randall Bramblett blowing a fuel-injected saxophone, and followed it with uncompromising renditions of *Roll With It* and *While You See a Chance*. The middle third of the set turned into a new album showcase, with the inevitable drop in momentum that entails. The ponderous *Angel Of Mercy*, for all its spirituality, lacked musical inspiration, and a cover of Sly Stone's *Family Affair* seemed a soft option, even if it was effectively funked-up in the style of 1970s disco aces Chic.

As he closed with *Higher Love* and returned for *Back in the High Life* and a no-holds-barred *Gimme Some Lovin'*, appreciation was renewed for the staying power of an artist who hit the scene at 15 and whose boyish zeal remains intact nearly 35 years later.

PAUL SEXTON

1	(1) Tellin' Stories	Charlatans (Beggars Banquet), 2 weeks in Top 50
2	(2) In It for the Money	Supergrass (Parlophone), 2 weeks in Top 50
3	(3) Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin), 26 weeks in Top 50
4	(4) White on Blonde	Texas (Mercury), 13 weeks in Top 50
5	(5) Shelter	Brand New Heavies (Ffr), 2 weeks in Top 50
6	(6) Ultra	Depeche Mode (Mute), 3 weeks in Top 50
7	(7) Dig Your Own Hole	Chemical Brothers (Virgin), 4 weeks in Top 50
8	(8) Mother Nature Calls	Cast (Polydor), 3 weeks in Top 50
9	(9) Ocean Drive	Lighthouse Family (Wild Card), 60 weeks in Top 50
10	(10) Blur	Blur (Food), 12 weeks in Top 50

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Figures in brackets denote last week's position

## Picking up good vibes

## MIKE MAINIERI

## An American Diary

*The Dreamings* (NYC Records NYC 6026 2) ALTHOUGH probably still best known for his work with the definitive fusion band Steps Ahead in the early 1980s, vibes player Mike Mainieri is firmly in acoustic mode for this wide-ranging recording. A sequel to his 1995 album of the same name (but without the subtitle), which concentrated on jazz reworkings of

## JAZZ ALBUMS

American classical composers, this one features a superbly cohesive, versatile quartet — reedsman George Garzone, bassist Marc Johnson, drummer Peter Erskine — in an extraordinary range of musical settings.

Bases touched include everything from traditional Jewish, Italian and Filipino folk, through bustling straight-ahead modern jazz, to musical riddles. All these apparently disparate strands, however, are firmly drawn together, not only by the power and eloquence of the musicians, but also by Mainieri's aim to "sample the various symbols and myths of my experience and tell them through music".

PAUL KIMBER  
*Peckham in Spring* (Fictional Music FMD029) AS MIGHT be expected, given that he plays double bass with English National Opera, Paul Kimber has a rich, full-bodied tone and, as a composer, an ear for neat, attractive melodies. What is surprising, though, since this is his debut jazz album, is his assurance both as improviser and band-leader. Whether he's contributing lithe, elegant solos to lightly swinging pieces or bowing sonorous introductions to folkish ballads, Kimber demonstrates enough class and assurance to make his sudden arrival on the British jazz scene auspicious in the extreme.

CHRIS PARKER

## YOUNG BOY



PAUL MCCARTNEY

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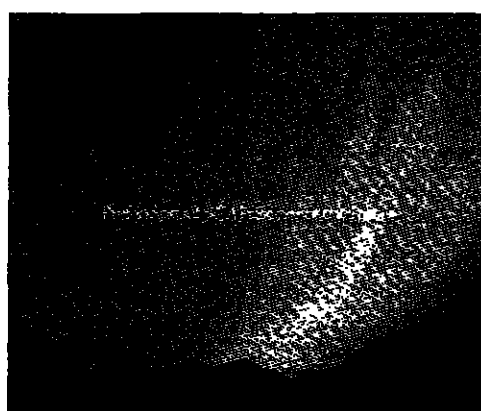
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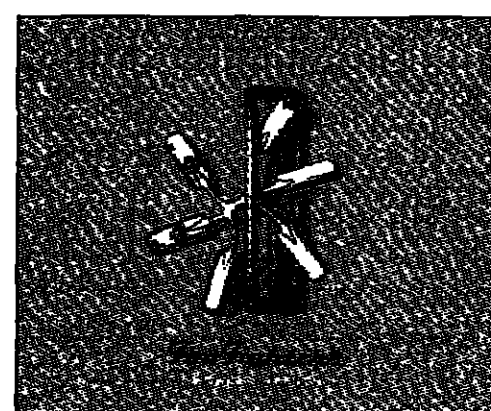


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# Lawful

Directive 76/207, and in particular articles 20(1) and 30, thereof, prohibited provisions of domestic law which made reparation of damage suffered as a result of discrimination on the ground of sex in the making of an appointment subject to the requirement of fault.

Directive 76/207 did not preclude provisions of domestic law which prescribed an upper limit of three months salary for the amount of compensation which could be claimed by an applicant where the employer could prove that the applicant engaged him in an enterprise which was not successful, and that the applicant would not have obtained the vacant position even if there had been no discrimination in the selection process.

In contrast, the directive prohibited provisions of domestic law which, unlike other provisions of domestic civil and labour law, prescribed an upper limit of three months salary for the amount of compensation for the amount of compensation which could be claimed by an applicant discriminated against on the ground of sex in the making of an appointment where that applicant would have obtained the vacant position if the selection process had been carried out without discrimination.

Directive 76/207 did not preclude provisions of domestic law which, unlike other provisions of domestic civil and labour law, imposed a ceiling of six months' earnings on the aggregate amount of compensation which, where several applicants claimed compensation, could be claimed by an applicant who was discriminated against on the ground of sex in the making of an appointment.



## Law Report May 2 1997 Court of Appeal

## State immunity for alleged breach of undertaking

**Propend Finance Pty Ltd and Others v Sing and Another**  
Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Mance  
(Judgment April 17)

A police officer in the Australian Federal Police, an accredited diplomat in the Australian High Commission, who took possession of documents relating to an Australian company held by London solicitors and accountants, and seized by the Metropolitan Police pursuant to a direction of the Home Secretary in response to a request by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and under warrants, did not waive his diplomatic immunity when he allegedly breached undertakings given to a High Court judge not to remove the documents from the court's jurisdiction for seven days.

In any event the actions of the police officer, and in any vicariously liable, the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, were entitled to state immunity from the jurisdiction of the courts of the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, then it dismissed the appeal of the plaintiffs, Propend Finance Pty Ltd, Richard Schenker Holdings Pty Ltd, Chusen Nominees Pty Ltd, Ginges Holdings Pty Ltd, Eversley Pty Ltd, Barney Richard Schenker, Albert Schenker, Bernard Ginges, Michael Dunkel, and Michael Dunkel & Co, but allowed the

appeal of the second defendant, the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP), against the order of Mr Justice Laws dated March 14, 1996, that proceedings for contempt of court could not proceed against the first defendant, Detective Superintendent Alan Sing, an officer of the AFP and as First Secretary (Police Liaison) at the Australian High Commission, who took possession of documents relating to an Australian company held by London solicitors and accountants, and seized by the Metropolitan Police pursuant to a direction of the Home Secretary in response to a request by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and under warrants, did not waive his diplomatic immunity when he allegedly breached undertakings given to a High Court judge not to remove the documents from the court's jurisdiction for seven days.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC and Mr James Lewis for the plaintiffs; Mr Gordon Pollock, QC and Mr David Mayhew, solicitor, for the defendants.

**LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT.** giving the judgment of the court, said that in August 1993, the Attorney-General of Australia sought assistance from the United Kingdom government, pursuant to the Scheme relating to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth, adopted at the meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers held in Harare, Zimbabwe, 1986 (Comm Law Bulletin, October 1986), to obtain a court order for search warrants in respect of documents and information relating to an investigation into alleged tax evasion in Australia.

In September the Home Secretary issued a direction to the Metropolitan Police, under section 7(4) of the Criminal Justice (Inter-

national Cooperation) Act 1990 and Schedule 1 to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, to apply for warrants to search for the relevant materials.

Application for the search warrants was made to the court by Detective Constable Fryer of the Metropolitan Police in October. The first defendant was present and gave evidence on oath as to the nature of the offence alleged.

Following the grant of the warrants, documents relating to the plaintiffs were seized from the office in London of Theodor Goddard, solicitors, and Stein Richards, accountants.

The plaintiffs sought injunctive relief before Mr Justice Potts, at which hearing the first defendant, represented by counsel, gave evidence on his own behalf but not on behalf of the AFP that the documents seized would not be removed from the jurisdiction for seven days, in particular that copies of documents would not be faxed.

Unknown to the plaintiffs, extracts of the documents were sent by fax to Australia during the seven-day period. In the meantime, the plaintiffs obtained leave to move for judicial review of the decision to issue the search warrants. A fresh undertaking was made by the Commonwealth of Australia, not the first defendant, to maintain the relief afforded by his undertakings.

In December the Divisional Court continued the injunctive relief by making a consent order sealing the seized documents, ordering their removal from the High Commission premises and their use until the matter was finally determined.

In March 1994 the Divisional Court quashed the decision to issue the search warrants and the Home Secretary's decision to issue the direction.

Towards the end of 1994 the plaintiffs realised that the undertakings had been breached and claimed the fax was widely disseminated in Australia. The defendants admitted breach of court orders of December 1993 and March 1994, but the Attorney-General of Australia by letter denied breach of the order of Mr Justice Potts in October 1993.

Having considered the confusing evidence as to what happened at the hearing before Mr Justice Potts, his Lordship said that the court agreed with the findings of Mr Justice Potts that there was no express waiver of immunity by the first defendant, within the meaning of article 32 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) (Crund 2565), scheduled to the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964, at that hearing by his giving the undertakings.

The court further agreed with Mr Justice Laws' conclusion that proceedings were initiated by DC Fryer, pursuant to the 1984 and 1990 Acts, and not by the Commonwealth of Australia by its request to the United Kingdom government for assistance.

Section 7 of the 1990 Act empowered the Home Secretary to direct an application to the English courts pursuant to a request from overseas. Such a request could not amount to the initiation of proceedings for the purposes of article 32(3) of the Vienna Convention.

Neither the first defendant nor his government had power to make the relevant application to the court. The application had to be made by the English police.

As to the plaintiffs' submission that when the first defendant gave his undertakings and broke them a few days later he was acting as an officer of the AFP, the court concluded from the evidence that the relevant acts of the first defendant were not performed by him in the exercise of his functions as a member of the diplomatic mission.

He appeared on the London Diplomatic List in June 1993. His government had an obvious interest in the satisfactory operation of the Harare Scheme.

In co-operating as he did with DC Fryer's application, the first defendant was exercising functions as the High Commission's police liaison officer. Some police functions might be clothed with diplomatic immunity just as the functions of military or cultural attaches might be. Thus the plaintiffs' appeal failed.

Proceedings for contempt were begun against the second defendant in June 1996 on the basis that he was vicariously liable for the first defendant's contempt.

Having considered the procedural difficulties of the plaintiffs' case, his Lordship said that there was no evidence that the second defendant gave any undertakings to the High Court. On that basis the court would have dismissed proceedings against him on the ground that they clearly lacked any merit.

The defendants, however, contended, inter alia, that the second defendant was entitled to immunity as he was part of the state of Australia within the meaning of section 14(1) of the State Immunity Act 1978, or alternatively under section 14(2) as a separate entity.

Mr Justice Laws had concluded that the AFP occupied a similar position to the police in the United Kingdom, that is, holders of an independent office under the Crown and fulfilling public duties of maintenance and enforcement of the law.

He regarded as bizarre the evidence of the defendants' expert witness that every member of the AFP was part of the executive government of Australia, and not a separate entity.

The second defendant was immune from jurisdiction in proceedings relating to acts done by them in the exercise of sovereign authority if the government of the state were not also immune. "Government" should be con-

sidered in the light of the concept of sovereign immunity.

Once it was established that the concept of state immunity existed in English law (see *Kuerst Airways Corporation v Iraqi Airways Co* [1995] 1 WLR 1147, [1995] 1600), it was, in the court's view, relevant to a determination of what bodies were part of the state and the "government" for the purpose of section 14(1).

"Government" should not be confined to what in other contexts would be English law mean the Government of the United Kingdom. Once the broad scope of governmental or sovereign activity was accepted, the performance of police functions was essentially a part of governmental activity.

In the United Kingdom there might be an understandable reluctance to characterise the activities of the police as "governmental". But that was because, in a domestic context, that word had acquired narrower shades of meaning than it found in the international context reflected in section 14.

In the circumstances, the court had no doubt that the first defendant's activities and, if vicarious liability were to be established, those of the second defendant were covered by state immunity. The first defendant was part of the Government of Australia within the meaning of that term in section 14(1).

Solicitors: Devonshires; Clifford Chance.

His Lordship said that section 14 was concerned, first, to define, for the purposes of English law, what was a state and, second, to give effect to article 27 of the European Convention on State Immunity (1972) (Cmd 5081) and the entities contemplated therein.

The expression "sovereign authority" used in the article was adopted in the section although without the words "acta jure imperii" which appeared in many English and foreign cases on state immunity.

In their Lordships' view "government" in section 14(1) had to be given a broader meaning than the judge gave when he referred to it as the executive branch of government.

A broad reading corresponded with the requirement of comity and with a body of law from many countries on the scope of sovereign immunity as a concept which covered acta jure imperii. Parliament had that jurisdiction in mind when enacting the 1978 Act.

It would be curious, while the expression "sovereign authority" appeared only in section 14(2) dealing with separate entities and not in section 14(1) dealing with "government", that separate entities were immune from jurisdiction in proceedings relating to acts done by them in the exercise of sovereign authority if the government of the state were not also immune. "Government" should be con-

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## No contempt in newspaper's trivial breach

**Attorney-General v Newspaper Publishing plc and Others**  
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Poole  
(Judgment April 25)

Where it was sought to impose indirect liability for contempt of court on a third party for interference with the administration of justice it was necessary to show that in the relevant proceedings the administration of justice had been wholly frustrated but that there had been a significant and adverse effect on it.

Since restraints on freedom of expression should be no wider than were necessary in a democratic society, a third party's conduct which was inconsistent with a court order in only a trivial or technical way should not expose him to conviction for contempt.

Where, therefore, documents had been disclosed to appellants and their legal advisers under a court order which was complied with, the appellants' conduct was not inconsistent with a court order in only a trivial or technical way should not expose him to conviction for contempt.

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disclosed in edited and summarised form to the appellants and their legal advisers. The order also required use of the material to the appeal and required the return of the documents and all copies on its conclusion.

At that time *The Independent* carried a news story, not written by Mr Hargreaves or Mr Blackhurst, of the outcome of that hearing. In November 1995 judgment on the appeal, containing quotations of short passages from two of the documents, was given in open court.

On that occasion prosecuting counsel reminded the court of the July order and asked for return of the documents. In directing their return Lord Taylor, Lord Chief Justice, indicated that breach of the order would result in the matter being referred to the Attorney-General.

A representative of the newspaper, present in court, collected a written copy of the judgment and having obtained the documents from another source, it published extracts in facsimile form from two of the documents which had been quoted in marginally shorter passages in the Court of Appeal's judgment given in open court.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the Attorney-General's motion to commit for contempt of court. Newspaper Publishing plc, the owner and publisher of *The Independent*, Mr Ian Hargreaves, its editor at the material time, and Mr Christopher Blackhurst, a journalist employed by the newspaper, acted in breach of the order.

The Attorney-General complained of the facsimile form in which the documents appeared and of the inclusion of words which had not been included in the quotations.

Mr Philip Havers, QC and Mr Ian Burnett for the Attorney-General; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr Justin Rushbrooke for the newspaper, Mr Hargreaves and Mr Blackhurst.

**THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE.** referring to the actual text of contempt, said that the Attorney-General accepted that the July

order had not been made against the world and that the newspaper respondents had not been directly bound by it. There was no suggestion that the newspaper respondents or their legal advisers or in turn of the newspaper aiding or abetting any breach.

Mr Havers, in reliance on *Attorney-General v Newspaper Publishing plc* [1998] Ch 333 and *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd* [1992] 1 AC 191, had submitted that if a third party with the requisite knowledge and intent so acted as to frustrate or undermine the basis on which a court had determined that justice should be administered, then he was guilty of contempt.

Mr Gray submitted that that authority represented an extension of the law as previously understood and that the court should be slow to extend the law still further, since any such extension, especially one involving fundamental rights of free expression and tended to inhibit the exercise by the media of their proper function of informing the public.

The court accepted his submission that a third party should not be held liable for contempt in acting inconsistently with a court order unless that order was clear and precise both in its effect and scope. Plainly no one should be in peril of suffering a criminal penalty for contempt unless the order which he was said to have infringed was clear.

He had submitted that it was not any conduct inconsistent with a court order which would support a finding of contempt but that, in reliance on *Attorney-General v Leveller Magazine Ltd* [1997] AC 440, *Attorney-General v Newspaper Publishing plc* and *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd*, to be criminally contemptuous, conduct had to be in a substantial way to defeat, frustrate, undermine, nullify or set at naught the object which the court had sought to achieve by its order.

The court did not think that in attaching the conditions for use of the documents in the July order the court's prime concern had been the protection of national security since that seemed to have been thought adequately protected by the redactions and summaries.

It inferred that in July 1995 the

court's concern had been to ensure, as was usual in the case of compulsory disclosure of confidential documents, that the disclosure would be no wider than was necessary to promote the just determination of the proceedings.

It might, but only as a subsidiary object, have wished to prevent the issues being fully ventilated, with reference to the documents, in the media before the appeal was heard. The court was directed to the appellants and their legal advisers and was not in its terms expressed to bind anyone who might succeed in obtaining the documents from any other source.

The court did not accept that any conduct by a third party inconsistent with a court order was enough to constitute the actus reus of contempt. Where it was sought to impose indirect liability on a third party the justification for doing so lay in that party's interference with the administration of justice.

It was not necessary to show that the third party was aware of the relevant proceedings, had been wholly frustrated or rendered utterly futile, but it was necessary to show some significant and adverse effect on it.

Recognising that the restraints on freedom of expression should be no wider than were justified in a democratic society, the court did not accept that conduct by a third party which was inconsistent with a court order in only a trivial or technical way should expose him to conviction for contempt.

The breaches committed here were very minor. It was hard to conceive how publication of the additional words caused any harm to anyone.

Reminding itself that the proceedings were criminal and that the court did not conclude that reproduction of the form of the documents amounted to a significant interference with the administration of justice.

On the question of mens rea both parties had accepted the proposition in *Attorney-General v Newspaper Publishing plc* [1998] Ch 333, that to show contempt it had to be established, to the criminal standard of proof, that the conduct complained of was specifically intended to frustrate or undermine the administration of justice, and such intent could be inferred from all the circumstances.

Mr Hargreaves and Mr Blackhurst both knew that the court had in July made the documents available to the appellants and their legal advisers and knew the full terms of the order or of any restrictions then imposed.

Neither of them had in mind the contemporaneous report in *The Independent* nor had occasion to refer back to it. The court had no doubt that their denials were truthful and accurate.

On the question of their knowledge of the exchange between the prosecution and the Lord Chief Justice it was clear that their colleague in court had alerted them to it, but they had in all probability left them uncertain as to the effect of any order.

That was why they went to the lengths they did to try to obtain an answer to that. Their approaches to the Lord Chief Justice's office, although unfruitful, represented a genuine and bona fide attempt to ascertain whether there was any restriction on publication.

It was significant that the case lawyer did not mention the July order, or the existence of any previous order. In tacitly inviting her to seek the instructions of the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Blackhurst approached as close to the fountainhead as he felt able.

When the final decision to publish was taken Mr Hargreaves was uncertain what the effect of the order had been but he did not stomach the idea that any order had been made binding on the press. He believed that the newspaper could properly publish extracts from the documents quoted in the court's judgment without infringing any order made.

When the court had seen the publication the natural inference was that the appellants and their advisers had breached the court's order and that the newspaper had aided and abetted that breach.

It was not at all surprising that the Lord Chief Justice had invited the Attorney-General to look into the matter. The present application was a proper one for the Attorney-General to have made in performance of his public duty.

However, neither the actus reus nor the mens rea were established and the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Kingsley Napley.

## Date of knowledge for limitation

**Saxby v Morgan**  
Before Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery  
(Judgment April 22)

In a personal injury action the date of a plaintiff's knowledge for the purposes of the Limitation Act 1980 was the date on which the plaintiff first acquired knowledge of causally relevant facts essential to the cause of action. It was not the date of the plaintiff first acquiring the knowledge that the defendant's act or omission was actionable.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mrs Margaret Saxby, who was claiming damages for negligence in respect of personal injuries: see sections 11(1) and 38(1) of the 1980 Act and *Wallin v South Manchester Health Authority* [1995] 1 WLR 543.

It was also common ground that the cause of action against Dr Morgan for negligent advice resulting in the continuation of Mrs Saxby's pregnancy, accrued on September 24, 1991.

The focus of the argument was on the date of knowledge of Mrs Saxby and whether it was later than the date when the cause of action accrued.

The judge was right to dismiss Mrs Saxby's appeal. The limitation period ran from September 24, 1991 and expired after the writ was issued but before it was served.

The extension of the validity of the writ deprived Dr Morgan of the accrued benefit of the limitation defence and the judge was entitled to conclude that there was no good reason for the failure to serve the writ within four months of its issue.

Mr Hartman sought to avoid that conclusion arguing that the plaintiff's date of knowledge was later than the date on which the cause of action accrued and that the limitation period had not expired at the date when the application for the extension was made so that avoidance of delay and the saving of costs involved in issuing a fresh writ constituted good reason for making an extension order.

He submitted that the three-year limitation period did not start to run until October 1992 when Mrs Saxby's solicitors received Dr Morgan's notes which recorded that he had advised her that she was five months pregnant. She was thus within the statutory 24-week period.

The basis of that submission was that Dr Morgan had, by his

negligent advice that Mrs Saxby was "too far gone", misled Mrs Saxby about the possibility of a lawful termination and that in consequence she lacked knowledge at the time of his advice in September 1991 and down to October 1992, of the fact that she could have had a lawful termination of her pregnancy.

Those submissions were inconsistent with the approach to the issue of the date of knowledge required by section 14 of the 1980 Act and see *Broady v Guy Clapham* [1994] 4 All ER 439, *Dobbs v Medway Health Authority* [1994] 1 WLR 1254, *Forbes v Wandsworth Health Authority* [1994] 3 WLR 1108 and *Spargo v North Essex District Health Authority* (The Times March 21, 1997).

Section 14 related to the date on which knowledge was first acquired by the plaintiff of certain causally relevant facts essential to the cause of action.

Those facts were the significance of the injury, the act or omission of the defendant alleged to be negligent and the fact that the injury was capable of being attributed to something done or not done by the defendant.

The section did not relate to the date of the first knowledge of the plaintiff that the act or omission was actionable or tortious, that is, knowledge of the legal conclusions and consequences arising from the combination of



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## EDUCATION

## New thoughts, old exam

Neil Sheldon  
fears for sixth  
forms in the  
shake-up of the  
A-level system

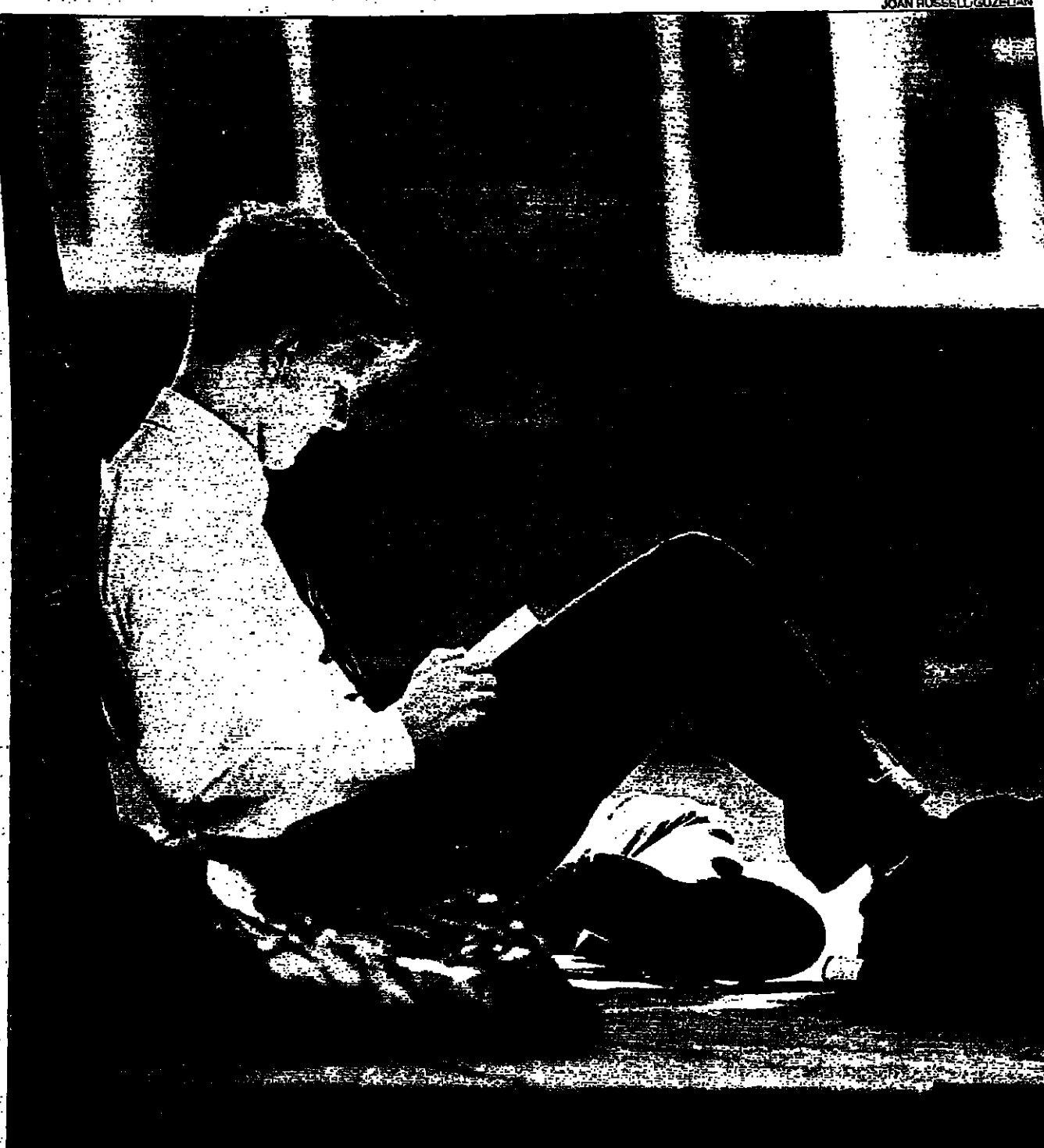
Next term the schools will get details of the biggest shake-up of the A-level system since its introduction more than 40 years ago: new syllabuses, a new type of AS level, new links between academic and vocational qualifications — all bound together by a host of new rules and regulations. But all this misses the really important issue in sixth-form education: the curriculum and, in particular, the breadth of curriculum.

The Dearing Report, on which all these changes are based, is only the latest in a series of studies during the past 20 years or so which have identified a need for greater breadth in the sixth-form curriculum. Dearing argues for a combination of breadth with depth, and offers specific proposals to allow that combination to be achieved.

The AS level is redefined as the first half of a two-year A-level course, making it easier for pupils to switch subjects at the end of the first year in the sixth form. The National Advanced Diploma would specifically reward study in breadth and depth: a broad range of subject areas have to be covered, and some of those areas have to be studied to full A-level depth.

That is the theory, but the practice is looking very different. Conversations with senior personnel at examination boards and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) can be depressing. The general view is that the Dearing reforms will make little difference in schools. Most will continue to offer the present pattern of A levels because there is no incentive to do otherwise. The best opportunity for a generation to achieve fundamental change in sixth-form education is going begging. There is a danger of reforming all the syllabuses and restructuring the examination system, but giving no thought to the curriculum. It is like changing the crockery and cutlery but giving no thought to the menu.

Who is at fault? The usual suspects must be the Government, SCAA, examination boards, universities and schools. The Government, having commissioned a report, approved it and directed SCAA to put it into practice. May I think it has done its bit. With a span of attention limited by the election, it wanted to change things in a hurry and no time has been allowed for considering the broader issues. The Conservatives have made themselves unpopular with the educational establishment by being too prescriptive in many of their educational reforms, but on this matter they have gone to the opposite extreme. On something as fundamental as the curriculum, a clear philosophy is needed and



Studying for AS levels: a big shake-up in the system — all bound together by new rules and regulations — is imminent

With a consensus must emerge. That requires leadership, and the Government has not provided it. SCAA is playing its proper role as intermediary between politicians and the real world. Charged with turning the Dearing principles into practicalities, and given the tight timescale which the Government has dictated, SCAA is fully occupied getting the detail right. This is not a climate in which it is easy to think about fundamental issues of principle.

The examination boards have a similarly hectic agenda. They have to draw up new syllabuses and take into account a regulatory framework which is changing day by day. At the same time the boards are going through a process of rationalisation, merging and setting up new alliances under economic and government pressure. In these circumstances the boards cannot think about the broader picture.

The universities have an enormous potential for influence on

the sixth-form curriculum. They could be giving a clear lead on the depth and breadth of qualifications they want in the students they recruit. But Dearing, to them, means the review that is being undertaken of higher education. And the university sector is fundamentally divided: the best want A levels in depth to allow them to offer quality degrees, the worst want anyone they can get to fill their places. There would be a great boost for the breadth of the curriculum if some good universities endorsed the National Advanced Diploma, but there is no sign of that happening. On the school curriculum, the universities prefer to be led than to lead.

The schools, which have ultimately to deliver the new curriculum, are the least culpable of the usual suspects. The amount of information reaching schools is lamentably small. Schools are aware that big changes to syllabuses are imminent, but no one is offering schools any guidance on the direction which the curriculum as a whole should be taking.

It would be easy to say that the Dearing programme allows each school to devise a curriculum of its own, going for breadth if it chooses to. But unless there is some consensus on change, it would not be sensible for schools to undertake such a reform.

A broader curriculum introduced by one school in isolation might disadvantage its pupils if the best universities continue to demand depth. Even a group of schools would have great difficulty introducing a broader curriculum unless they carried substantial parts of the university sector with them.

A quite different point, but one that creates enormous difficulties for schools contemplating breadth, is funding. Greater flexibility in the curriculum means more varied patterns of choice by pupils, more staffing,

more expense. Most schools do not have the resources to adopt a broader curriculum — which may bring us full circle to the real reason the Government is saying so little about it.

What should be done if the implementation of Dearing is not to be all detail and no principle? The agenda has been rushed but it is not yet too late. The incoming Government should declare a year's delay, knowing most of the work on the syllabuses and examinations has been done. During the moratorium all those involved, but particularly schools and universities, should look at the new system and think long and hard about the important issues. What is the best curriculum that this new system can be used to deliver? What balance between breadth and depth do we need in our sixth forms?

We have the shiny new knives, forks and plates; now let us decide what food to serve.

● The author is a Surmester at Manchester Grammar School.

## 'Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin'

David Charter reports on a £44 million plan for a national children's radio station

Susan Stranks, whose face was familiar to a generation of children in the 1970s, hopes to conquer the airwaves again to bring the under-16s their own radio station. The former presenter of ITV's *Maggie* is leading a £44 million bid to run the last remaining national radio channel. She has presented a case to the Radio Authority to run the 225 kHz frequency after failing to convince the BBC to provide more programmes for the under-16s. Indeed the BBC, which used to own the spare long-wave frequency, retains only one daytime slot specifically for children on radio — for just half-an-hour on Sunday evenings.

It is 15 years since children were last asked "Are you sitting comfortably? Good, then I'll begin", and *Listen with Mother* disappeared from Radio 4. Schools programmes have been switched to the small hours after research showed teachers were more likely to tape record a programme than listen to it live with their class.

Ms Stranks, co-founder of Children 2000, a group which tries to win National Lottery money for children's projects, remains undaunted by the evidence that children and schools do not want a full daily radio schedule.

She points to studies which show growing numbers of young children have speech difficulties and cannot concentrate for long periods. Ms Stranks adds further that a children's national radio service would help to address concerns about poor literacy.

"We have done no formal research but we have done an enormous amount of widespread consultation with the parents, nurseries and playgroups, all of whom are supporting this and would use it," she says. "There are millions of parents at home with young children and it is to them we will be focused as well as nurseries and primary schools."

She is not worried by fears that — for children and parents — radio has had its day. "Radio is a very modern form," she says. "It is an incredibly cost-effective way of introducing fun learning. Children have no right of access to radio in the UK because, unlike television, neither the BBC Charter nor the Broadcasting Acts of 1990 or 1996 protect their needs in audio broadcasting."

Her four-year plan for Children's Radio UK, using money raised from the lottery, envisages programmes on all aspects of life and learning for youngsters in four age groups up to 16, backed up with helpines and Internet material for teachers and parents. The plan has won support from a range of prominent people and groups, from Baroness Warnock to

the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

However, the BBC maintains that there is not enough demand for any extension of its own children's radio output, let alone a national station. Matthew Bannister, director of BBC Radio, says Radio Five was originally aimed partially at children when it was launched but had to be changed to the sport-dominated Five Live because youngsters were simply not tuning in. The present Sunday night play draws an audience of 210,000, but only 10 per cent of those listeners are children. "BBC Radio did not give up on children — children gave up on speech radio in favour of television and then videos," he says.

Ms Stranks and Mr Bannister clashed in a BBC governors' seminar last year, when she insisted the BBC could do more but he maintained that children mostly wanted to listen to



Susan Stranks wants a children's radio station

Radio 1 and, in particular, the Top 40. "We need to provide a service to them through Radio 1 which is a distinctive popular music service... trying to force children into listening to speech output on the radio is something which we've tried and which really doesn't work," he says.

Ms Stranks has refused to be put off, but there is still some way to go before the dream of a children's radio station can become a reality.

If the Radio Authority decided to offer the 225 kHz frequency to broadcasters, it would be sold to the highest bidder in the same way as the three previous licences, for Classic FM, Virgin and Talk Radio. A national children's station would meet the requirement to offer a distinctly different service to these three.

The authority is considering all the responses to a recent consultation on whether the frequency would be viable. The signal becomes weak after dark but Ms Stranks argues this would be of less concern to a children's station which would not, need to broadcast late at night.

## The mouse in the house

The latest and, some would say, best of the growing range of multimedia encyclopaedias arrived in the shops yesterday, making life a little easier for pupils with access to a home computer.

Faced with a homework project or, more significantly, coursework for a national qualification, the first thing the online teenager does is to load the CD-Rom. Instant colour images enliven answers, which can be downloaded directly, requiring minimal re-writing thereafter.

The high-tech encyclopaedias, which now include video clips and can be updated at frequent intervals, have breathed new life into a market that seemed to be on its last legs. Most computer packages come with one, and sales are booming.

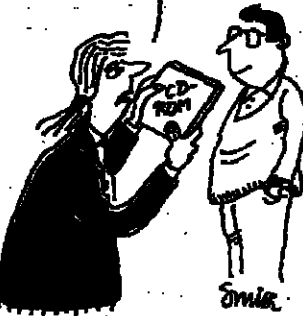
Yesterday's example, *The 1997 World Book Encyclopaedia*, contains so much information that it comes on two CD-Roms. There are 3,000 articles on the 20th century alone, 134 videos, 44 animations and 19 virtual realities, where the viewer can explore a 360-degree image.

Like the other market leaders — Encarta, Hinchinsons, Info-pedia and Webster's, which launched in February with the full text of the Cambridge Encyclopaedia — the package includes automatic links to relevant Internet sites. New articles are added daily: some time next week, for example, full coverage of the general election will appear.

To the uninitiated, *World Book* and its competitors are extraordinarily impressive. The 500 different sounds will bring an orchestra to life and add to the attractions for young learners, many of

John O'Leary on  
the CD-Rom:  
friend or foe of  
pupils' research?

IT'S NOT FAIR, DAD — I'VE  
BEEN GIVEN LOADS  
OF HOMEWORK...



whom will browse happily in a way they would not have considered if restricted to the printed page.

But the encyclopaedias and the growing number of more specialised educational CD-Roms raise concerns, too, both about their impact on children's learning styles and the advantages they confer on those from wealthy homes. When a click of the mouse will search 22 volumes of the world's bestselling encyclopaedia, investigative skills become almost redundant.

Professor Jack Sanger, the head of Norwich City College's Research Centre, whose book on young children's use of computers appeared last week, says: "All

the slog is taken out of research, which is fine except that it can cause the loss of a critical, evaluative consciousness on the part of the learner. The old methods meant that the student was constantly coming across other books and different views: there is a tendency to regard the anonymous authors as the ultimate authority on a given topic."

Professor Sanger contends that many schools are only now starting to wrestle with the consequences. "There is plenty of anecdotal evidence that a meritocratic divide is developing between well-to-do families who have plumped for a PC, and those who cannot afford one," he says. "Someone has to decide whether to mark on a different scale if pupils have used a computer, but it seems that most schools have not yet come to terms with it."

Howard Timms, the managing editor of *World Book International*, acknowledges the problem but, not surprisingly, believes that the advantages of high technology as an aid to learning far outweigh its disadvantages. "Teachers are becoming quite adept at recognising sections of *Encarta* that have simply been downloaded, and no doubt the same will apply to *World Book* when it is in common use."

Mr Timms is confident that the links with other sites and the many references will encourage wider reading and that features such as the encyclopaedia's extensive video library will draw children into topics they would not otherwise have addressed. The material has been matched with national curriculum levels so that subjects are introduced in language of the appropriate level.

Diego Soto tells Jenny Knight of his struggle to study at a level that matched his mind

Diego Soto is so severely disabled he can move only three fingers on his left hand. He spends his life lying on his side or sitting in a wheelchair with a head support and body brace, yet this term he is completing his first year as a law student at the London School of Economics.

Diego's achievement is all the more remarkable because his early schooling was an academic disaster — a waste that has driven him to campaign for mainstream education to be routinely offered to mentally able but physically handicapped children.

He argues his case in *Diego's Story*, to be published this month. In it he tells of his struggle to be judged on his abilities rather than on his crippling disease, spinal muscular atrophy.

Diego was born in Colombia, to a 16-year-old student. He was cherished by her and his aunts, kept at home, taught to read and treated like a prodigy. When he came to London, aged eight, he was eager to go to school, and was shocked to be taught with other physically disabled children at an academic level beneath his abilities. Science classes were taken at a local college with children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

He writes: "Most of us were quite delicate physically, but some of our new classmates could be unpredictable and violent. They showed little interest in science which meant we had been entered for GCSEs at the lowest levels... It seemed to me that nothing could be achieved by lumping together pupils with such diverse problems."

In GCSE English the whole class was again entered at a low level and Diego found it hard to prove the work was beneath him because typing became difficult as his muscles deteriorated. Though Dic-

## Handicapped by being put down

go never walked, he was able to use a computer and an electric wheelchair until the age of 15, when his health collapsed.

At 16, he found himself in an oxygen mask, without a GCSE, physically too unwell to return to school and told he was not entitled to home tuition. There Diego's promise might have faded but for his meeting with Jill Rutherford, the teacher in charge of the hospital unit. She badgered an individual tuition centre into providing a teacher for several hours a week. Diego took English GCSE and got an A grade. Despite Lambeth's ruling that Diego was too old for a home tutor, his English teacher was allowed to continue to tutor him for A-level English. Ms

Rutherford successfully bombarded education charities with pleas for funding for a private tutor for GCSE Spanish. A year later Diego had two more top-grade passes. He was accepted for a college course in A-level Government and Politics and had enough charity funding left to study A-level Spanish, with a private tutor. A friend coached him for the AS-level philosophy exam.

He says: "On the first day of the course, a taxi delivered me to the steps of the college, where an attendant was waiting to wheel me into the classroom. The students divided into separate groups — black and white. As a Colombian, I wondered which I should fit into. I soon found out: neither. For a year, no

one but the tutor spoke to me." Diego believes that this social awkwardness would be overcome if the physically disabled mixed with able-bodied children at school. "Children would realise that the disabled are just ordinary children and get used to being with them," he says. "I still get angry about inequality. Those with good brains but not my cheek and demanding nature rarely have a chance to prove themselves. Surely people who are disabled have a right to fulfil their potential? Now I feel the sky's the limit; I intend to confound all those who have told me to accept my lot or assume that because I am immobile, I must exist in a vegetative state."

Diego started to apply to universities. He was rejected by the LSE, but wrote a letter of appeal and phoned the student disability officer for support. He was called for a gruelling interview, then offered an unconditional place.

Not that Diego's battles to gain an education are over. Finances are a struggle. He has to employ an assistant to drive him to college, to take notes in class, to write essays to his dictation and to look after his personal needs. The cost is covered by a grant during term time, but because Diego, who is now 21, is unable to offer continuity of employment, he cannot keep the same helper.

"My assistant must be academically competent, able to take notes and have good handwriting," he says. "I have a good memory and I check the points they should have noted. I intend to become a barrister specialising in mercantile law and public administration. I am optimistic someone has to be the first. I have come so far I'm sure that I will succeed."

● *Diego's Story*, by Diego Soto, with Jill Rutherford, Vermilion 1996



The severely disabled Diego Soto in his first year of law at the LSE



Major

as the

Remember that you must select two batsmen from Category A and three from Category B, and that you must select two bowlers from each category.

Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising Stars in *italic*.

Further additions to the player listings will be made in due course, once the game is up and running, including changes to the counties' overseas players and changes to the anticipated Australian tour party.







## RACING

# BHB explores alternatives to the levy system

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE British Horseracing Board (BHB) has secretly agreed to investigate alternatives to the levy system of funding racing, which could revolutionise the way the sport is financed in the 21st century.

The implications for racing as a whole could be enormous — and might even lead to the formation of a super league of the top racecourses which can take advantage of new commercial openings.

A levy on horse racing, which is paid by off-course punters when they have a bet and collected by bookmakers, was introduced in 1962 and produces annual returns of about £55 million.

However, in recent years the levy system has looked increasingly outdated when compared to funding for other sports. It has also produced regular disagreements between the betting industry and racing over the rate of levy — which have been resolved, somewhat reluctantly, by the Home Secretary.

Pressure to replace the levy with an alternative system of financing has come from a wide range of interests, including owners, who are unhappy with the present levels of prize-money, and Lord Donoughue, Labour's racing spokesman in the House of Lords. The big bookmakers indicated in February the time could be right for a change.

The BHB decided at a recent board meeting to set up a small group to look at alternatives to the levy, but intended to keep the move under wraps until the membership of the

group and its terms of reference had been finalised. That is likely to take a few weeks.

However, the group will be under strict orders to make sure that any alternative is practical and cost effective. "We don't want any airy-fairy ideas which cannot be implemented for political or financial reasons. Our feet must be kept firmly planted on the ground," one source said yesterday.

The "Big Three" bookmakers, Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral, have been informed of the move but the

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TULIPA (3.10 Newmarket)  
Next best: Fern's Governor (3.45 Newmarket)

BHB wants to get its own thinking straight before having discussions with the betting industry. Change to the levy system would require legislation; previous governments have insisted that would depend on agreement between bookmakers and racing.

Future funding of racing in Britain is the most important single issue facing the sport's leaders. If they needed any further convincing, the latest figures released in the United States underline the point. In 1996 betting turnover on racing totalled \$12.5 billion and prize-money was \$897 million — equivalent to more than 7 per cent.

By contrast, British off-course betting turnover is about £4.4 billion and yet the levy return from that is £55 million — just over 1 per cent — of which only £30 million goes to funding races.

The vast difference is due to off-course betting profits being returned to the big bookmakers and their shareholders rather than being distributed to the sport. With no chance of a Tote, monopoly being introduced in Britain and all governments reluctant to raise the rate of levy, what are the alternatives?

The answer, as with other sports, may lie in television rights. They are owned by Britain's 59 racecourses, who receive £12 million a year from SIS, which beams pictures into the nation's betting shops and whose principal shareholder is the "Big Three." The contract between SIS and the racecourses runs out in 2002.

If the main tracks — the dozen owned by the Jockey Club plus the likes of Ascot, York, Goodwood and Doncaster — transferred their television rights to the BHB-owned RaceTech they could be in a powerful bargaining position, it is being suggested. Apart from negotiating directly with the bookmakers, the new organisation could tap into digital television, which will allow viewers to place bets.

Of course, that is only one idea. But it demonstrates the far-reaching changes which may flow from the BHB's welcome decision to look at alternatives to the levy.

## Time Allowed to reach maturity

By JULIAN MUSCAT

A WELCOME development over recent seasons has been the growing popularity of racing high-class thoroughbreds beyond their third birthdays. Five years ago, the activities of Heliopsis, Singpiel, Pilsudski and Borna Sham would have been confined to the breeding grounds. And the effect has trickled down to horses below their class, as shown by an enthralling renewal of the Grangewood Jockey Club Stakes (3.10), one of four races shown on Channel 4 at Newmarket today.

No fewer than ten evenly matched runners are on display. Luso, that veteran of the Pattern, has become adept at dismissing weaker oppo-



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

nents. He will set the same demanding standards that have registered victories from Rome to Hong Kong. Earnings in excess of £700,000 pay him handsome testament: he will be hard to beat, even with his 5lb penalty.

However, he remains vulnerable to an improving performer — and several in that category align against him here. The five-year-old Kutta appeared better than ever when third on his reappearance at Newbury, but he, too, may be surpassed by something more sprightly.

Samraan was below par behind Kutta on his reappearance at Newbury, but even his best may not suffice in a contest likely to unfold at a searching gallop. Celeric



Luso, far side, will provide a thorough test for his rivals in the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket today

invariably needs his first outing of the season. Mons makes up in spirit what he lacks in physical scope, but Persian Punch has both qualities in abundance. He should have strengthened over the recess, although this staying type may lack for pace over 12 furlongs. Tulipa has had her problems and may find the ground too lively.

Busy Flight, from a late-maturing family, progressed significantly last autumn. He enters the argument on his comfortable course and distance victory in October, but Time Allowed is preferred. This daughter of Sadler's

Wells must conjure more than she has previously shown to beat this field. However, she remains on the upgrade, hails from an in-form stable and thrives off a strong gallop.

The Kuwait Green Ridge Stables Newmarket Stakes (2.35) has attracted Godolphin's first runner of the season in Hattarra, who showed ability in two well-contested maidens last term. But this Zilzal colt — a brother to Karammarra, whose best efforts have been gained at a mile — may find this ten furlongs too demanding. Desert Horizon stepped up

considerably on his debut to prevail in soft ground at Nottingham. He now faces tougher opponents in the shape of Musical Dancer and Sandstone. This listed contest is probably commensurate with Musical Dancer's ability, but greater aspirations are held for Royal Crusade. A Derby entrant, the son of Diesel readily disposed of 16 maidens on his sole start and is worth following.

In the opening Ladbrokes Animal Health Trust Handicap (2.05), it could pay to look beyond Summer Queen's defeat of Just Nick over this course and distance last

month. Summer Queen can confirm that form but Kaiser Kache represents better value. He should be more at home over this trip, having raced at eight and nine furlongs most recently. Baritone and Triple Hay look dangerous in a tightly knit affair.

The Milcars Handicap (3.45) looks even more tricky. Purchasing Power and Over To You are three-year-olds with chances but they may struggle against their elders at this early stage of the season. A better proposition is Blurred, who made strides in the autumn and starts the campaign on a fair mark.

### NEWMARKET

2.05 Alphabet	3.45 Fern's Governor
2.35 MUSICAL DANCER (nap)	4.15 Balaika
3.10 Busy Flight	4.50 Zahr

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.10 BUSY FLIGHT.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

### 2.05 LADBROKES ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £8,828; 7f) (12 runners)

101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112

Long handicap: heavy down 7 fms.

BETTING: 9-2 Alphabet, 6-1 Baritone, Just Nick, Summer Queen, 7-1 Sandstone, Triple Hay, 8-1 others.

1996: 1997: 1998: 1999: 2000: 2001: 2002: 2003: 2004: 2005: 2006: 2007: 2008: 2009: 2010: 2011: 2012: 2013: 2014: 2015: 2016: 2017: 2018: 2019: 2020: 2021: 2022: 2023: 2024: 2025: 2026: 2027: 2028: 2029: 2030: 2031: 2032: 2033: 2034: 2035: 2036: 2037: 2038: 2039: 2040: 2041: 2042: 2043: 2044: 2045: 2046: 2047: 2048: 2049: 2050: 2051: 2052: 2053: 2054: 2055: 2056: 2057: 2058: 2059: 2060: 2061: 2062: 2063: 2064: 2065: 2066: 2067: 2068: 2069: 2070: 2071: 2072: 2073: 2074: 2075: 2076: 2077: 2078: 2079: 2080: 2081: 2082: 2083: 2084: 2085: 2086: 2087: 2088: 2089: 2090: 2091: 2092: 2093: 2094: 2095: 2096: 2097: 2098: 2099: 2100: 2101: 2102: 2103: 2104: 2105: 2106: 2107: 2108: 2109: 2110: 2111: 2112: 2113: 2114: 2115: 2116: 2117: 2118: 2119: 2120: 2121: 2122: 2123: 2124: 2125: 2126: 2127: 2128: 2129: 2130: 2131: 2132: 2133: 2134: 2135: 2136: 2137: 2138: 2139: 2140: 2141: 2142: 2143: 2144: 2145: 2146: 2147: 2148: 2149: 2150: 2151: 2152: 2153: 2154: 2155: 2156: 2157: 2158: 2159: 2160: 2161: 2162: 2163: 2164: 2165: 2166: 2167: 2168: 2169: 2170: 2171: 2172: 2173: 2174: 2175: 2176: 2177: 2178: 2179: 2180: 2181: 2182: 2183: 2184: 2185: 2186: 2187: 2188: 2189: 2190: 2191: 2192: 2193: 2194: 2195: 2196: 2197: 2198: 2199: 2200: 2201: 2202: 2203: 2204: 2205: 2206: 2207: 2208: 2209: 2210: 2211: 2212: 2213: 2214: 2215: 2216: 2217: 2218: 2219: 2220: 2221: 2222: 2223: 2224: 2225: 2226: 2227: 2228: 2229: 2230: 2231: 2232: 2233: 2234: 2235: 2236: 2237: 2238: 2239: 2240: 2241: 2242: 2243: 2244: 2245: 2246: 2247: 2248: 2249: 2250: 2251: 2252: 2253: 2254: 2255: 2256: 2257: 2258: 2259: 2260: 2261: 2262: 2263: 2264: 2265: 2266: 2267: 2268: 2269: 2270: 2271: 2272: 2273: 2274: 2275: 2276: 2277: 2278: 2279: 2280: 2281: 2282: 2283: 2284: 2285: 2286: 2287: 2288: 2289: 2290: 2291: 2292: 2293: 2294: 2295: 2296: 2297: 2298: 2299: 2300: 2301: 2302: 2303: 2304: 2305: 2306: 2307: 2308: 2309: 2310: 2311: 2312: 2313: 2314: 2315: 2316: 2317: 2318: 2319: 2320: 2321: 2322: 2323: 2324: 2325: 2326: 2327: 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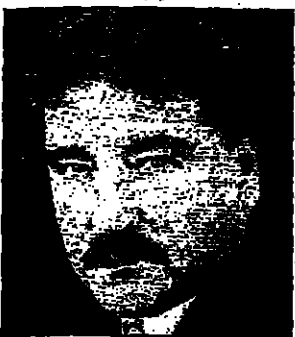




Formula One's driving force risks alienation in move to tighten safety

## Mosley takes foot off the accelerator

MICHAEL CALVIN



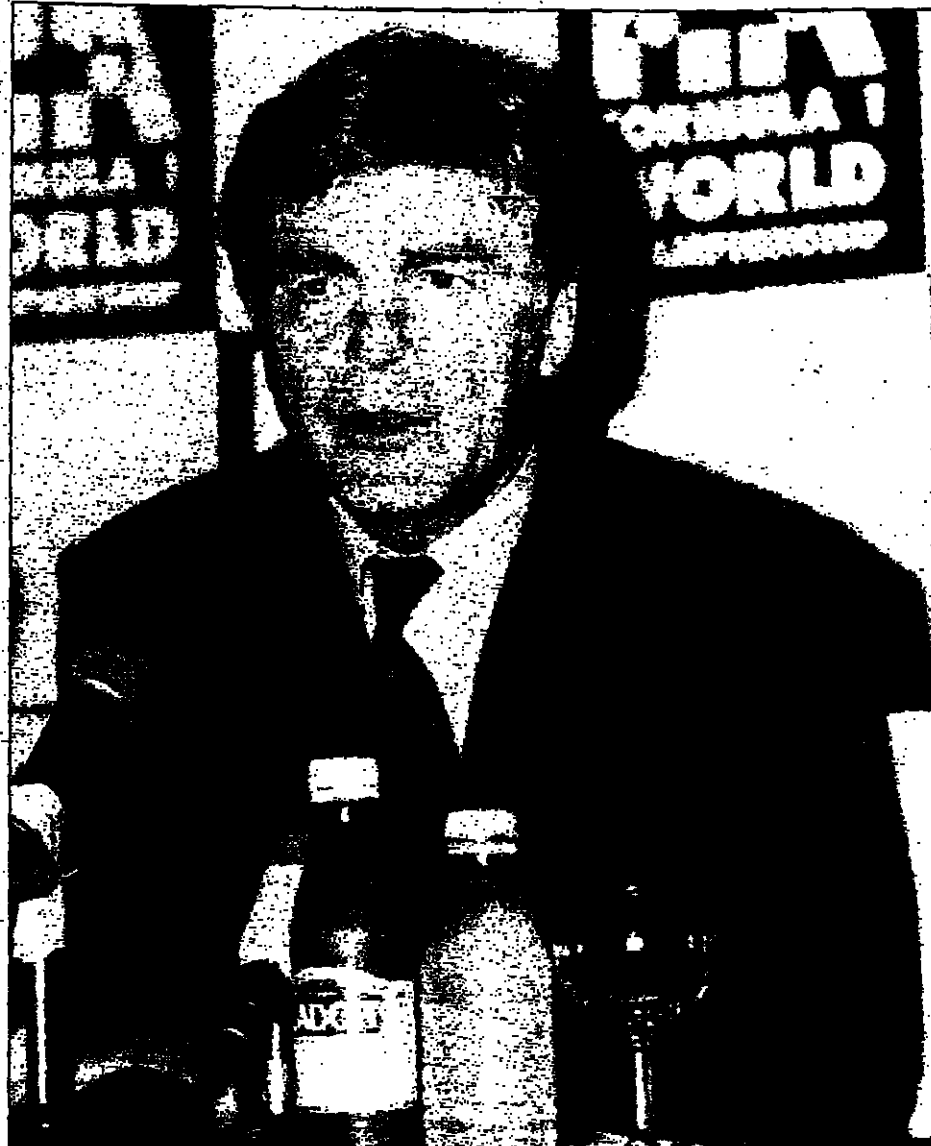
It was an awful day, in every sense of the word. Torrential rain swept the Hockenheim circuit and low cloud shrouded the pine forest in which Jim Clark was killed instantly, when his Lotus slewed off the road on the fifth lap of an inconsequential Formula Two race. Death, in its timeless fashion, defined the occasion.

The shock of Clark's loss, on April 7, 1968, was as profound as that of Ayrton Senna's more than 26 years later. Each was the pre-eminent driver of his generation, a philosophical man of matchless talent. Max Mosley knew them both, and uses their memory to remind his sport of its responsibilities.

As president of the FIA, the world governing body of motor sport, he is the driving force behind the safety campaign launched in the aftermath of Senna's death. He has a politician's cunning and complexity, but it is as a frustrated driver, who competed in the race in which Clark perished, that he finds his central source of motivation.

"Everybody is formed by their own experiences and to me, it just seemed a wicked waste of life," he said. "Of the 21 people who started the race in which Jimmy was killed, three were dead by July. All but two of the cars didn't have seatbelts. If anything went wrong you were effectively sitting in a petrol bath, with nothing to protect you except a couple of thin bicycle tubes."

"We were racing at 170mph, with no guard-rails. Make a mistake and all you had was



Mosley is leading the campaign launched in the aftermath of Senna's death

two yards of grass before you started collecting pine trees. The attitude was, 'well, if you don't like that, you don't have to do it'. A racing driver sees it as his duty to go as fast as possible and, as an administrator, I take it as a moral duty to do what I can to protect them."

"I don't mind crashes in which minor injuries are sustained because, despite our best efforts, they cannot be prevented, but I don't want people crippled and I don't want them dead. People might say that taking away signifi-

cant danger would diminish Formula One's popularity, but it has never been more popular, nor more safe."

Formula One is trapped in a ruthlessly competitive evolutionary cycle, which consumes vast amounts of money and fosters elitist attitudes. Designers such as Adrian Newey, controversially recruited by McLaren from Williams, are paid £2 million a year to find a way around the regulations sanctioned by Mosley, whose methods of controlling speeds are being widely questioned.

Drivers, led by Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher, are scathing about the proposals for 1998, which involve the introduction of narrower cars and grooved tyres. The prevailing mood among team owners is summarised by Ron Dennis, the McLaren team director, who said: "What they are saying is that we have to spend a lot of money to go slower. I have a real problem with that." Mosley's response is equally robust. "They are missing the point," he insisted. "The problem is that people are making



Clark: profound loss



Senna: memory

itive, self-defensive culture that encourages introspection. All that matters in the pit lane is winning the next race and sustaining the small talk of politics. Mosley's obligation, to consider the wider ramifications of modifying the sport as a global commodity in a digital age, is, by its very nature, confrontational.

He envisages Formula One moving away from its European power base, with venues such as Malaysia, South Korea, China and India opening up unexplored audiences. His search for the right niche in the marketplace involves promoting perceived vices, such as the lack of overtaking manoeuvres on modern tracks, as potential virtues.

"It is true that it is too difficult to overtake, but that doesn't mean that it should be too frequent an experience," he said. "There is now a sense of significance when someone overtakes, a real sense of spectacle."

**'A driver sees it as his duty to go fast. I have a duty to protect them'**

Mosley added: "In essence, we are talking about the differences between basketball and soccer. Basketball is a game of instant gratification, a game of hundreds of points.

"Soccer is a game of greater subtlety, a game of two or three goals. The world prefers football and that is a cultural difference we must recognise. A Formula One race is a truly global event for hundreds of millions of people."

The cynics will regard such sentiments as the first instalment of the sales pitch for Formula One's widely anticipated stock market flotation and probably miss the underlying irony of Mosley's point. To flourish commercially, motor racing must retain its humanity and that means accepting the potentially fatal consequences of human weakness.

## SPORTS LETTERS

## Limited appeal for fielders

From Mr Senaka Weeraratna

Sir, Time and again the cricket public has watched in horror as television replays show an umpire's decision, upholding or dismissing an appeal against a batsman, to be in grave error. But the hardest thing has been to see an injustice on television replays, and then to note that the technology that detected the umpire's error is not being used to correct the error.

Patently wrong umpiring decisions are allowed to stand because of the absence of a mechanism in the laws of cricket to overturn them.

In the judicial system, a dissatisfied litigant has the right of appeal against a decision of a judge, to a higher court or a full bench. Likewise, a similar principle of appeal should find expression in cricket laws and allow a dissatisfied captain of a team to appeal against a ground umpire's decision to the third umpire.

Greater justice in umpiring decisions has been secured because of the participation of the third umpire, who, upon the request of a ground um-

pire, can determine appeals for run-outs and stumpings. This process should be extended, with the third umpire being required to perform an appellate role in respect of doubtful catches, behind or in front of the wicket, and run-outs and stumpings (which are not referred to the third umpire by a ground umpire).

Any objection that a two-tier appeal process would unduly protract or destabilise the game can be met by restricting the number of appeals against the ground umpires' decisions to five per side per innings. This way, some of the bad ground umpiring decisions, particularly in respect of appeals for caught behind the wicket, could be corrected.

The use of the proposed appeal mechanism may also contribute in some way towards containing the unnecessary tension that flares from time to time between cricket playing nations because of poor umpiring decisions.

Yours faithfully,  
SENAKA WEERARATNA,  
40 Malak Crescent,  
Darwin, NT 0812,  
Australia.

## Foreign accolade

From Mr Neil P. Benedict

Sir, As an Englishman who has lived in New York City for more than 25 years, I was pleased and moved to read a detailed obituary with picture of Denis Compton in *The New York Times* last week. The prominence given to it is clear testament to the depth of recognition for Compton. I do not recall any other non-US sportsman receiving such coverage.

This article prompted me to think of similar sportsmen who, in my lifetime (born 1948), have had as much impact as Compton. It is a short select list:

Muhammad Ali (boxing), Roger Bannister (track), Lew Hoad (tennis), Barry John (rugby union), Michael Jordan (basketball), Mickey Mantle (baseball), Joe Montana (American football), Arnold Palmer (golf), Pete Seeger.

This is a personal choice which, obviously, is open to much debate. Yours sincerely,  
NEIL P. BENEDICT,  
925 Park Avenue,  
New York, NY 10028.

## Youngest entrant

From Mr Mike Greenland

Sir, Your front-page article (April 22) on the table tennis player, Katy Parker, reported that she would be the "youngest English athlete to compete in a world championship" at the age of 12 years 144 days.

However, Mark Richmond represented Great Britain in the 1994 International Optimist dinghy world championships, in Sardinia, aged 12 years 142 days.

Yours sincerely,  
MIKE GREENLAND,  
Chairman,  
International Optimist Class Association (UK),  
18 Ashmeads Way,  
Colehill,  
Wimborne,  
Dorset.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

## EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION



# Win a trip to the British GP

## Enter a team today for the Monaco Grand Prix

The Fantasy Formula One Grand Prix Competition is a unique opportunity to win a trip to the Monaco Grand Prix. The competition is open to all Formula One fans and is run by the Times Newspapers. The prize is a trip for two to the Monaco Grand Prix, including travel, accommodation, and entry to the race. The trip is worth £25,000. The competition is open to all Formula One fans and is run by the Times Newspapers. The prize is a trip for two to the Monaco Grand Prix, including travel, accommodation, and entry to the race. The trip is worth £25,000.

TO ENTER: If you have not already entered a team into our Fantasy Formula One Grand Prix Competition, please visit our website at [www.fantasyformulaone.com](http://www.fantasyformulaone.com) or call 0891 405 001 (44 990 100 311 outside the UK). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Grand Prix. Bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number to confirm your entry.

THE PRIZES: The team with the highest team score after the Portuguese Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000.



£25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship Series. Prize of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Monaco Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the British Grand Prix on July 13. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One merchandise worth £250.

TRANSFERS: You can change up to four selections before the Monaco Grand Prix by calling 0891 405 001 (44 990 100 311 outside the UK) before noon on Thursday, May 8. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D.

THE first three drivers you select will be your predictions for the Monaco Grand Prix. Bonus points apply. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number to confirm your entry.

CHECK YOUR SCORE: Check your score and position after the San Marino Grand Prix by calling 0891 405 001 (44 990 100 311 outside the UK) and input your 10-digit PIN number.

## HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN SAN MARINO

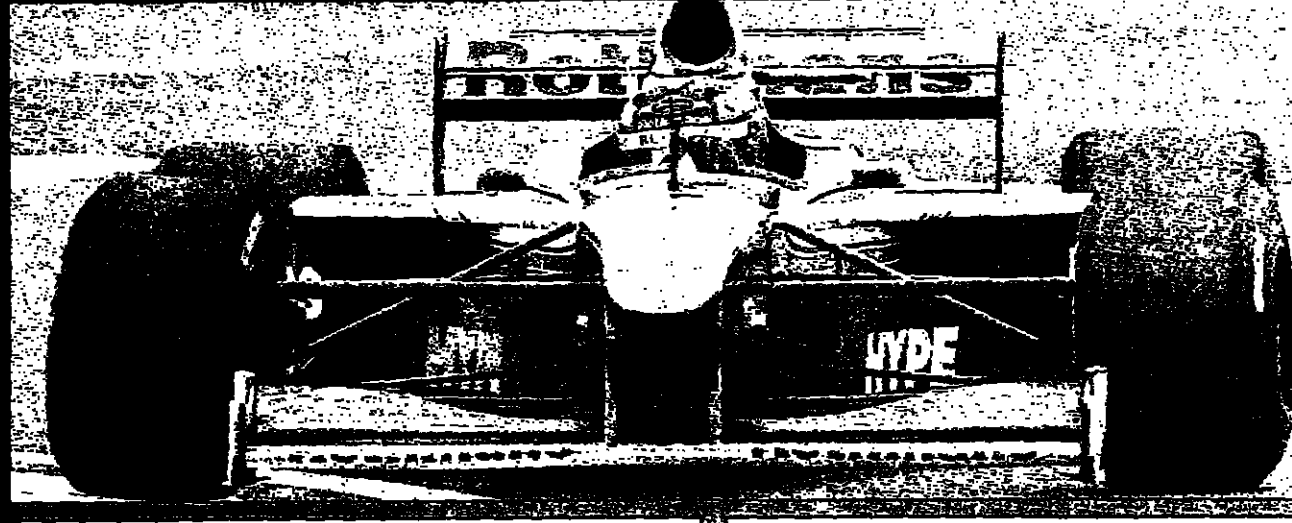
**DRIVERS:** Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frenzen 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th O Paris 23; 5th R Schumacher 22; 6th G Fisichella 21; 7th J Herbert 20; 8th M Hakkinen 19; 9th E Irvine 18; 10th D Coulthard 17; 11th G Berger 16; 12th N Larini 15; 13th R Barrichello 14; 14th J-Alesi 13; 15th D Hill 12; 16th J Magnussen 11; 17th P Diniz 10; 18th S Nakano 9; 19th M Salo 8; 20th J Trulli 7.

Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st H-H Frenzen 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd E Irvine 40; 4th G Fisichella 30; 5th J Alesi 29; 6th M Hakkinen 28; 7th N Larini 27; 8th O Paris 26; 9th M Salo 25; 10th J Verstappen 24; 11th U Katayama 23. (Only 11 finished). Lap points (one point for each lap completed): H-H Frenzen 62 points; M Schumacher 62; E Irvine 62; G Fisichella 62; J Alesi 61; M Hakkinen 61; N Larini 61; O Paris 61; M Salo 60; J Verstappen 60; U Katayama 59; P Diniz 53; J Villeneuve 40; D Coulthard 38; R Barrichello 32; J Herbert 18; R Schumacher 17; D Hill 11; S Nakano 11; G Berger 4; J Magnussen 2.

Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): J Verstappen 33 points; U Katayama 33; M Salo 30; J Alesi 27; E Irvine 18; N Larini

15; M Hakkinen 6; G Fisichella 6; M Schumacher 3; H-H Frenzen 3. Fastest lap time of grand prix H-H Frenzen 10 points. Penalty points (incurred resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points. Elimination during the race (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points; J Villeneuve -10; G Berger -10; D Coulthard -10; R Barrichello -10; J Herbert -10; P Diniz -10; R Schumacher -10; S Nakano -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): J Trulli -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

**CONSTRUCTORS:** Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Williams 30 points; Ferrari 26; Jordan 23; Benetton 22; McLaren 21; Sauber 20; Prost 19; Tyrrell 18; Minardi 16. Penalty points (incurred resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Arrows -10 points. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Arrows -20 points; Stewart -20; Williams -10; McLaren -10; Benetton -10; Jordan -10; Prost -10; Sauber -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Minardi -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.



## OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE SAN MARINO GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Tarna	B Tarna	3224
2	Tetch-Meisters Racing	B J Day	3131
3	Farside Racing	R M Hunt	3097
4	Dragon Racing	R Davis	3060
5	Sailh Arrows	S O Okufuwa	3046
6	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	3036
7	No Team Name	J Le Mont	3034
8	Bleak Outlook	D Hilditch	3031
9	Blitz 'Em All	N Timar	3018
10	Kernow	M Turf	3017
10	Itv No Ads Pls	K G Hunter	3017
10	No Team Name	No Name	3017
10	Ben Elton	S Nicholls	3017
10	Midnight Runners	D Deacon	3017
10	Go West	G Milne	3017
10	Cherokes	L Lenehan	3007
16	No Team Name	No Name	3007
16	Gary's Wacky Racers	G R Taylor	3007
16	Eric's Mob	E Winterbottom	3007
16	Team Libra	R Jumble	3007
16	Markati	D T Haworth	3007
16	Delta Integrale	B Rashidian	3007
16	Rand Runners	M Rand	3007
24	Over The Hill?	C J Rice	3005
25	Deals & Bugs Racing	R H Brooks	3004

## MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the San Marino GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

## DRIVERS

GROUP A	GROUP B
01 D Hill 12	12 O Paris 23
02 M Schumacher 24	14 J Verstappen 25
03 J Villeneuve 30	15 U Katayama 23
04 E Irvine 18	16 P Diniz 10
05 J Alesi 13	17 R Rosset 0
06 G Berger 16	18 R Schumacher 22
07 M Hakkinen 19	19 G Fisichella 21
08 D Coulthard 17	20 S Nakano 9
09 R Barrichello 14	21 N Larini 15
10 H-H Frenzen 25	22 J Trulli 7
11 J Herbert 20	23 J Magnussen 11
12 M Salo 8	24 V Sospiri 0

## CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C	GROUP D
25 Williams 30	31 Arrows 20
26 Ferrari 26	32 Sauber 10
27 McLaren 21	33 Tyrrell 18
28 Benetton 22	34 Minardi 16
29 Jordan 23	35 Stewart 20
30 Prost 22	36 Lola 0

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# England flag despite enthusiasm of supporters at Wembley



The crowd on Wednesday night knew better than to let the football ruin their evening. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## Pomp but little circumstance

So, another bathetic mismatch between occasion and event. You might think I'd learnt by now. On Wednesday evening, at a Wembley Stadium caressed thrillingly by a low, warm sun, 71,000 people waved flags for glory. And it was grand. An anthem played. The players strode nobly on to the pitch, their fans cheering a suitable heroes' welcome. Because heroes are what they are, of course, and 30 years of hurt never stopped me dreaming.

People were terribly pleased to see Alan Shearer again, but personally, it was when I saw David (sniff) Seaman emerge from the tunnel that I felt that strange, warm-puppy feeling they used to talk about in *Peanuts*. David Seaman. Such grace. Such beauty. And such a very tasteful outfit. What a man. I just hope nobody told him how leaky the England goal was, all the time he couldn't be with us. I'd hate him to feel guilty.

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

And sure enough, Seaman never really saw them again. He waved to them occasionally, but that was all. England attacked, doggedly and even ingeniously, but (alas) as if they couldn't quite remember why. The attack was so blunt and undangerous, it was — well, upholstered. From the Georgian point of view, it must have felt uncannily like the Attack of the Cornish Chairs. And soft-furnishing is surely not the effect our sainted manager desired.

Of course, the youthful Beckham was rather dashing, and Le Saux made good breaks, but all the time one couldn't help thinking of those wonderful wheeling limbs of Steve McManaman, strapped to the subs' bench, as if in punishment. "Do you think Glenn Hoddle will put McManaman on at half-time and admit he was wrong not to include a player of such energy and inspired play-making in the original line-up?" I asked a Chap Who Knew in the press box. "Oh yes, this is no time for silly pride," he replied. But although Macca was seen to warm up once or twice, it was only a cruel tease, and he simply wasn't allowed out to play. Can it be true that Hoddle disposes of enthusiasm? His joylessness is a proper downer.

So what was there to watch at Wembley on Wednesday apart from the two long-awaited goals? Well, thrills and spills. Rarely have 22 men tumbled over on grass in more spectacular varieties or combinations. They skidded, slipped, tripped, dived, body-surfed and somersaulted, and personally I uphold the dire suspicion that the pitch had been recently watered. Every tackle had the grace and subtle impact of colliding elephants

on roller-skates, while the degree of shoving and ankle-hacking (from both sides) was shameful. Look around the pitch at any moment, and you'd find half a dozen bodies struggling to regain the vertical.

Except for Seaman, of course, whose classy outfit remained spotless to the end. Whenever play was dull, I studied his lone, handsome physique through binoculars — and to be honest, it was great. Here he stood, a romantic embodiment of energy at rest, and it was easy to imagine him in a range of dashing, boy's-own hero ensembles, all of which would suit him exquisitely. Why doesn't the Arsenal club shop do a range of dolls? Spitfire pilot Seaman, with cravat. T. E. Lawrence Seaman in draping robes, with jewelled scimitar. Or best of all, Indiana Seaman. Some people doubt the value of binoculars at a football match, but they are an unrivalled way of making your own entertainment.

Finally, while much was made of the brilliantly executed last-minute goal by Shearer, a tiny voice within me just won't be quelled. Doesn't it put some gilt on the gingerbread, getting a free kick just six yards from the goal? I only ask. The equivalent in tennis would be a chance to serve a winning ace while your opponent agrees to be tethered by a short rope to the umpire's chair. "I can't do this, it's silly." "No, you go ahead, it's in the rules." "But it's silly, I can't." I don't understand. But Shearer struck the Johnsonian hour correctly, back-heeled the ball for Shearer, and Shearer rocketed it perfectly into the top corner of the net. It was terrifically skilful. I can see that. But at the same time, it's not such a lot to be proud of.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

#### ABBEYLUBBER

(a) A lazy monk. A reproachful name in regular use after the Reformation. "The Dissolution of the monasteries, that fed Abbey-Lubbers and wanton Nuns."

#### BARBAR

(b) A barbarian, from the Latin *barbarus*. Superseded since the 18th century by *barbarian* and *barbarous*. "Blood shed by these barbars and burriers."

#### BULKIN

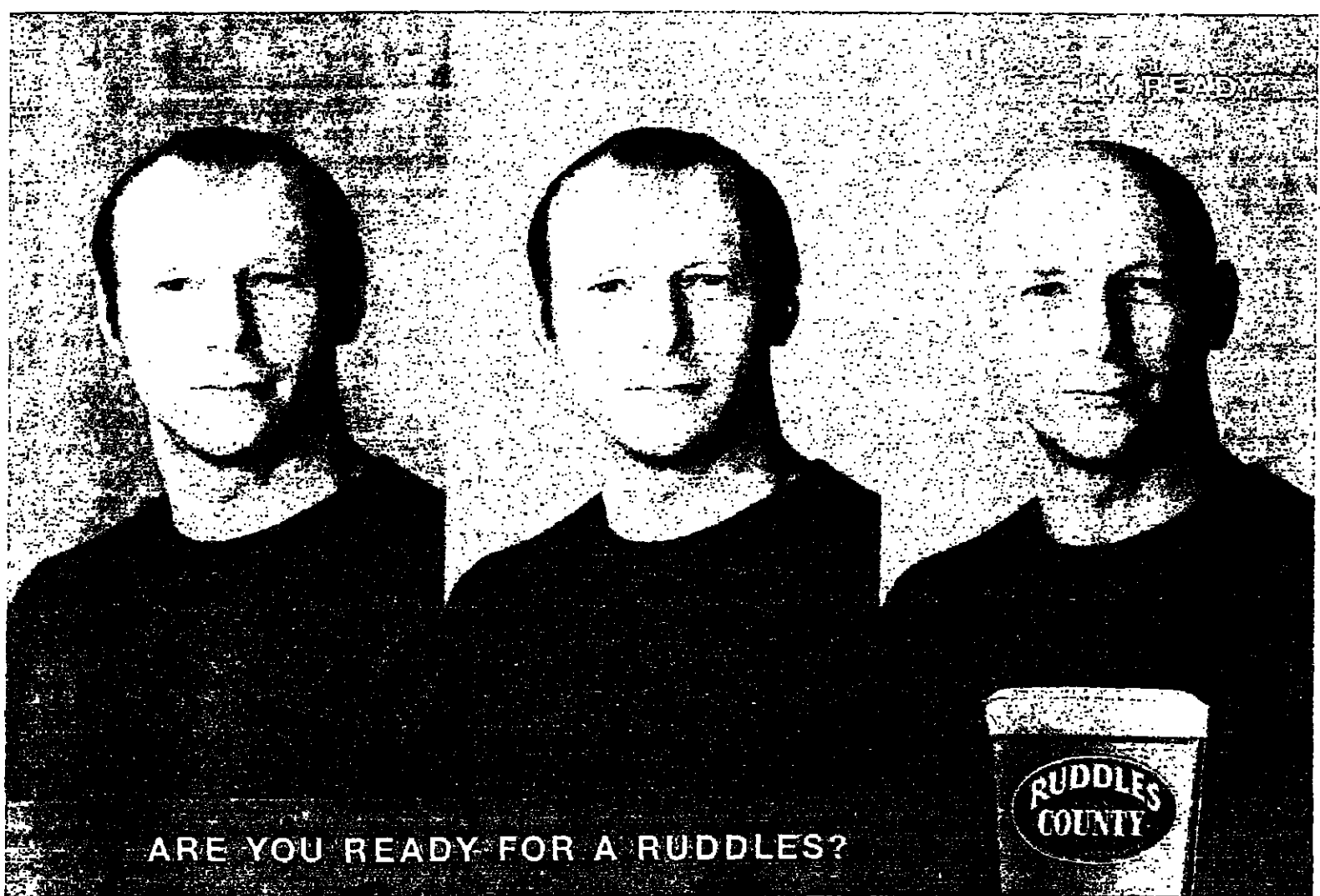
(a) A bull calf, a young bull. Hence, transferred for use as a term of endearment. From the Dutch and Old Low German. "My sweet choice bulkin, my force and my power only."

#### BASTO

(c) The act of clubs in quadrille and ombre. From the Spanish *basto* in the same sense, the whole suit of Clubs being also called *Bastos*, and the ace being *el Basto* par excellence. Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, 1714: "Him basto follow'd, but his fate more hard. I Gain'd but one trump and one plebeian card."

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nxd4 2 Rxd4 (2... cxd4 is met the same way) 2... Rg1+ 3 Kd3 Qxd3 winning White's queen.



ARE YOU READY FOR A RUDDLES?

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## When the tornado came

Eye of the Storm

ITV, 8.30pm

Blow me down! — yet another programme about hurricanes and tornadoes. Obviously the allure of these freaks of Mother Nature is undeniable. While we fuss about a spell of dry weather or a cold snap, our American brethren are holding their breath in case their houses disappear overnight. There have been scientific programmes explaining these conditions and profiles about those footloose fellows who track their courses. Now comes this half-hour of footage captured by such eyewitnesses as the splendidly named Sheriff Randy Stubblefield, who picked up his camcorder the day the Pampa tornado of June 1995 came to his town. Others might have thought longingly of a nice, deep cellar in which to hide, but then we would have been deprived of some awe-inspiring footage.

The Grand

ITV, 9.00pm

Time to thrust open the art deco doors of Manchester's Grand Hotel again. In Russell T. Davies's richly decorated drama, the sets are most definitely the stars of the show. The plethora of Tiffany lamps, stained glass panels and sweeping mahogany staircases threaten to outdo any of the scenery. Even the marvellously lupine Mark McGann as Marcus Bannerman, the cad of a brother who represents the pragmatism and self-centredness of the new age. In this week's episode, Maggie Rigby (Lucy Davis), an old school friend of Adele Bannerman (Camilla Power) comes to stay. It turns out that her supposed appendicitis was really an abortion. Together the two nascent flappers go around wreaking havoc around the hotel, upsetting the guests and generally setting a bad example. Meanwhile, Marcus is up to his old tricks again as he tries to use some family dirt to get his way with Sarah (Julia St John).

Sunnyvale Farm

BBC2, 9.30pm

What a nasty little person Richard Freddy and Cary have created in the character of Ray. Sunnyvale: mucky as a cowpat but not as useful. In the second part of their rural sitcom that turns the sod over on the myth of the rustic life, things get



Steve Coogan as Paul Calf (C4, 11.05pm)

even more basic. Having "totalled" the kitchen while drunk in charge of a tractor, Ray (Paul Daniels) gets one step closer to getting his grubby paws on his middle-class neighbour Wendy when she invites him and his one-chicken-short-of-a-farmerhouse brother (Mark Addy) to stay. As played by Daniels, Ray is a distant cousin of Harold Steptoe, a life-form incapable of evolving out of its primeval mud, however hard he tries. Added benefits are Matt Lucas's surreal humour and Michael Kitchen as the ghostly and gloating landowner. Recommended viewing, even if you need a jolly good wash afterwards.

What's Up Dockers?

Channel 4, 11.05pm

This is essentially a record of the benefit show for the Liverpool dockers who have been engaged in an industrial dispute since September 1995. Not a lot of people know about this strike and so more than 50 comedians got together to put on a show at the London Palladium to raise money and awareness. Among the edited highlights is Eddie Izzard's lovely routine about how birds would feel if they flew in an aeroplane, while Jo Brand, Steve Coogan (as Paul Calf), Sean Hughes, Alan Davies and Rob Newman (as the debauched Lord Jarvis of Soho) talk about their own lives and so more than 50 comedians got together to put on a show at the London Palladium to raise money and awareness. 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# Sleaze, assassinations: business as usual

Until 10 o'clock and the mass outbreak of Dimblebys, it was very much business as normal last night. ITV even launched a couple of new series as if to signal that whatever this morning held, television life went on. Rather comforting, I thought.

The evening kicked off, however, with the by now familiar sight of veteran BBC reporter in crumpled suit rushing around alleging all sort of awful things — bribery, corruption, high level conspiracies. Turned out not to be Martin Bell at all, but Mark Tully, a man who's had so many rows with the corporation you expect him to run for parliament any day now, but actually is still making documentaries. Rather good ones, as this opening instalment of *East* (BBC2), turned out.

According to Tully, sleaze is threatening an already endangered species with extinction. Not the Tory party, but the Bengal

tiger. This, we learnt, is for three reasons. One is that the animals are trapped or hunted by poachers, who bribe wardens to look the other way and then sell the carcasses — particularly the bones — for Chinese medicines. The second is economic development. As one of the exclusively Indian interviewees put it: "I have not seen a tiger yet that has actually benefited from a nuclear reactor, hydro plant or a four-lane highway." Apart from that, I suppose.

Tully, however, saved his hardest criticisms for the third threat: alleged mismanagement by India's wildlife conservation agencies. "Millions of pounds have been raised but nobody seems to know how the money has been spent." To back himself up he tracked down forest wardens who hadn't been paid for five months and rangers who had to fight off poachers equipped with automatic weapons and four-wheel drive vehicles, while they patrolled on foot armed only with a stick.

The argument was persuasive, but was more soundbite than hard fact. Was an organisation such as the self-governing Worldwide Fund for Nature India, which spent half its income on administration, doing better or worse than other WWF agencies around the world or indeed than similar organisations in India? But as Maneka Gandhi, former minister of environment and now an active wildlife campaigner, put it: "I don't want to save a secretary, I want to save a tiger." You can tell she's not standing for election any more.

As if to tame the Independent Television Commission, which criticised it recently for over-dependence on formula drama, the ITV Network Centre unveiled its second new police series of the week. On Tuesday, *Touching Evil*

eyes) while Louise Lombard as Liz Shaw was clearly a member of the crack PPWF (Preposterously Pretty Police Women — founder members Amanda Pays, Orla Brady, Pooky Quinlan). She'd got the night while T-shirt to prove it.

Once we'd got over the surprise of the opening few seconds, when crazy Clare from *Peak Practice* (Yolanda Vazquez) pitched up as a Bosnian terrorist, the main plot advanced perfectly well. Jeffrey Caine and Julian Jones had come up with a confident reworking of *Day of the Jackal*, with a sniper in London out to assassinate a Bosnian Serb suspect for war crimes. It was CPG's job — and I hope this didn't come as too much of a shock — to stop him.

The problem, however, was the subplot. Even if you bought the premise that an enterprising terrorist group might take Worrell's estranged wife and daughter hostage to increase the chances of the

assassination attempt succeeding, what happened next defied belief. Really, Shaw should have listened to her nervous colleague as they stalked out the sumptuous Worrell residence. "There's units trained for this sort of thing — this isn't our job." Too right.

Perhaps DI Shaw was buying new T-shirts when the lure on basic siege-storming happened, or worrying about her blonde highlights — we shall never know. But whatever the reason, having burst into the house in the approved explosive manner, she made the rather important mistake of pausing for a chat. After virtually exchanging "after you", "no, after you", the Bosnian terrorist decided he would shoot Worrell's wife dead, before he and his partner were shot dead.

It remains to be seen what being directly responsible for the death of your partner's former wife does

for the unresolved sexual tension that tradition dictates exists between Worrell and Shaw. Not a lot, I suspect, but we're entering uncharted territory.

We're also entering uncharted territory with *My Wonderful Life* (ITV), which is a good reason for waiting for a couple more weeks before coming to any firm conclusions about Simon Nye's latest creation. Anything described as comedy-drama runs the risk of not being funny enough to be comedy and not being dramatic enough to be drama. Emma Vail supplied most of the latter last night as Donna, overworked nurse and single mother of two, while Tony Robinson contributed most of the laughs as Alan, her glibly, trendy liberal neighbour who believes: "There won't be genuine democracy in the National Health Service until the patients form their own trade union." Now there's a thought for a new government.

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

was about a male and a female police officer, who both work for OSC, Organised and Serial Crime Unit. Last night, *Bodyguards* was about a male and female police officer who both work for the CPG, Close Protection Group. I felt a ho-hum coming on.

Like Robson Green in *Touching Evil*, Sean Pertwee as Worrell was on secondment from GLH/WNE (good-looking hunks with nice

**BBC1**

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (82579)  
7.00am *BBC Breakfast News* (70647)  
9.00am *Election '97* David Dimbleby examines the coverage of the election result. Jeremy Paxman interviews senior politicians and Peter Snow analyses the night's events (511885)  
NB: Subsequent programmes subject to change

12.30pm *Regional News* (33531) WALES: Wales Today Election Special (33531)  
1.00 News (7) and weather (54557)  
1.30am *Regional News* (8655222)  
1.45 *Neighbours* Darren pesters Libby to make a decision (4014585)  
2.10 *Election '97* Coverage of the last stage of the election as the results come in from Northern Ireland. Including live coverage from Downing Street, Buckingham Palace, the party headquarters and around the country (8035314)  
NB: Subsequent programmes subject to change

4.30 *The New York Bear Show* (786666)  
4.35 *ACE Ventura: Pet Detective* (161811) 5.00 *Newsround* (1) (467604)  
5.10 *Blue Peter* (7) (865286)  
5.30 *News* (7) (321173)  
6.00 News (7) and weather (41650)  
6.30 *Regional News* (2276)  
7.30 *Weekend Watchdog* Anne Robinson takes four operators to task for allegedly turning holiday-makers' lives into a living hell, and Johnathan Maitland reports from Dublin on whether or not Irish beer brewed in the UK can be genuine (1) (47)

8.00 *Portugal* A series of three plays the inmates, so Fletcher decides to stage a rock and roll night in the prison to raise classic comedy with Ronnie Barker, Richard Beckinsale and Maurice Denham (1) (6376)

8.30 *A Question of Sport* David Coleman asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz as regulars Ally McCol and John Parrott lead the teams (1) (811)

9.00 News (7) and weather (4005)  
10.00 *Falling Down* (1993) Michael Douglas plays an unbalanced motorist who cracks under the pressure of getting caught in a traffic jam and goes on an increasingly violent rampage across Los Angeles. A detective who is working his last day for the LAPD before retiring begins receiving reports of various violent incidents and eventually realises that one man links them all. Also with Robert Duvall and Barbara Hershey. Directed by Joel Schumacher (1) (63466)

11.45 *The Sure Thing* (1985) John Reiter directs this comedy, with John Cusack and Debra Zurgas as mismatched, warring college students who are forced to travel cross-country together. Freshman Walter (Cusack) has the chance of a passionate liaison in California, arranged by his best friend, Lance. He arranges to hitch a ride to the Sunshine State but unfortunately his fellow passenger is the studious, uptight and highly organised Alison Bradbury, the living incarnation of his nightmare (1) (61005)

1.15am *News* (7) and weather (402390)

**BBC2**

7.15am *See Hear Breakfast News* (7) and (S) (818721)  
7.30 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (1) (830917) 7.55 *50/50* (1) (149631)  
8.20 *Adventures of the Garden Fairies* (3408802) 8.25 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (1) (861248) 8.35 *The Raccoons* (1) (359006)

9.00 *The French Experience* (3440918) 9.15 *The French Collection* (225369) 9.45 *Watch* (7837463) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (86227) 10.30 *Watch Out* (801011)  
10.45 *Pathways of Belief* (801566)  
11.00 *Look and Read Special* (863821)  
11.20 *Belief File* (8632208) 11.40 *Metaphors Special* (4865679) 12.00 *English File* (86271)

12.30pm *Working Lunch* (31173)  
1.00 *Job Bank* (3027143) 1.10 *Job Bank* (3027143) 1.20 *The Developing World: Zimbabwe* (7887840) 1.45 *Words and Pictures* (86033005) 2.00 *Adventures of the Garden Fairies* (1) (80328208) 2.05 *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (1) (80327579)

2.10 *Snooker: World Championship* The second semi-final resumes (3831037)  
6.00 *The Simpsons* Homer sees an opportunity to earn brownie points when Mr Burns falls ill (1) (844450)  
6.25 *Top of the Pops* (1) (274734)  
7.00 *Snooker: World Championship* Live semi-final coverage (8453)  
8.00 *A Gaffer's Travels with Peter Alliss* Peter travels to Thailand where he meets big-screen legend Christopher Lee on the Blue Canyon Course near Phuket and rugby star David Campese in Royal Hula Hin (1) (4918)

8.30 *Gardeners' World* Imaginative ways of brightening up a boring patio, tips on looking at rhododendrons, Richard Pannell, who was the sound engineer for 1970s rock band Electric Light Orchestra, reveals his exotic tree collection grown from seeds collected from around the world while touring with the band (1) (74005)

9.30 *Sunnyside Farm* Ray becomes temporarily homeless after getting plastered and accidentally bulldozing his home (1) (51937)

10.00 *Rob C Nesbitt* (1) (57460)  
10.30 *Newsnight* (1) (78640)  
11.30 *Snooker: World Championship* David Vine presents a round-up of today's semi-final news at the Crucible (55869)

12.15am *This Life* (1) (7373951)  
12.40-12.45 *Weather* (912768)  
1.05 *Open University: The Psychology of Addiction* (477532) 1.30 *Whore Body* (58195) 2.00 *Hairstressing and Beauty Therapy* (49357) 4.00 *Speaking our Language* (Famously Fluent) (35406) 5.00-5.30 *Business and Work: The Small Business Programme* (55583)

**HTV**

6.00am *GMTV* (4019314)  
9.25 *Election '97* Introduction to six hours of programming, focusing on the result of yesterday's election (1) (367305)  
9.30 *HTV West Election '97* (1) (57111)  
10.00 *Election '97* Jonathan Dimbleby, Michael Sturton and Alastair Stewart are back after a long night to present comprehensive coverage of the day's events (1) (700078)

12.30 News (7) and weather (86227)  
1.00 *HTV Election '97* (1) (86802)  
1.30 *Election '97* Further analysis, including responses from Sue Lawley and the ITV 500 panel of voters as they put the questions they wanted answered to the politicians now in power (904802)

4.00 *The Tracoe People* (1) (7859734) 4.15 *Where's Wally?* (1) (4474734) 4.40 *Crazy Cottage* (1) (8633227)  
5.10 *A Country Practice* (7361753)  
5.40 News (7) and weather (860078)  
5.50 *HTV CrimeStoppers* (489424)  
6.05 *Home and Away Special: The Musical* (451314)  
6.30 *HTV Weather* (31)  
6.35 *The West Tonight* (1) (233005)  
7.00 *Lucky Numbers* (1) (5024)  
7.30 *Concorde* Stuart Hicks and Jamie bid a fond farewell to the Street (1) (43)  
8.00 *The Bill* Garfield and Page search for a missing teenager (1) (444)

8.30 *Sheriff Randy Stubblefield* (8.30pm)

8.30 *Eye of the Storm* Richard Madeley presents camerader footage of extreme weather conditions around the world (1) (7100)

9.00 *The Grandfather* A father and daughter are hiding a guilty secret (1) (9173)  
10.00 News (7) and weather (32314)  
10.30 *The West Tonight Update* (212983)  
10.40 *The Matthew A* new series looking at the celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's historic voyage to Newfoundland (518568)

10.40 *At the Albert* The last of the series see the best of Bristol's jazz musicians performing at the Albert music pub in Bristol (5593463)  
12.15am *The Wacky Weekly World News* (7858425)  
1.25 *Bonkers* (1) (2855680)  
1.40 *In Bed with Madeline* (833609)  
2.05 *Club Nation* (1) (245577)  
3.30 *Stand and Deliver* (1) (129977)  
4.00 *Planet Rock Profiles* (2337403)  
4.05 *Cosch* (1) (4047197)  
4.25 *ITV Sport Classics* (2339338)  
4.30 *Collins and Macdonell's Movie Club* (1) (27804425) 4.50 *Sound Bites* (8400338) 5.00 *Coronation Street* (1) (50319) 5.30 *News* (10116)

**CENTRAL**

As HTV West except:  
9.30am-10.00 Central News Election Special (57111)  
1.00pm-1.30 Central News Election Special (86802)  
5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (7361753)  
6.25-7.00 Central News (261280)  
10.40 *Central Weekend Live* (5583363)  
12.15am *Movie Show Specials* (7377777)  
12.40 *In Bed with Madeline* (5130406)  
1.15 *Bonkers* (767826)  
2.15 *Baywatch* (813970)  
3.05 *Cyber Cafe* (49700135)  
3.30 *Heater Skelter* (2045933)  
4.20 *Central Jamboree '97* (5914048)  
5.20 *Asian Eye* (8435135)

**WESTCOUNTRY**

As HTV West except:  
9.30-10.00 Westcountry Live Election '97 (57111)  
1.00pm-1.30 Westcountry Live Election '97 (86802)  
5.10-5.40 Home and Away Special (7361753)  
6.05-7.00 Westcountry Live (428442)  
10.30 Westcountry News (212163)  
10.45 Film: 1969 (4591217)  
11.40 *A406* (488802)  
12.10am *Campus Cops* (7378406)  
5.00 *FreeScreen* (50319)

**MERIDIAN**

As HTV West except:  
9.30am-10.00 Meridian Election '97 (57111)  
1.00pm-1.30 Meridian Election '97 (86802)  
5.10-5.40 Home and Away Special (7361753)  
6.05-7.00 Meridian Tonight (428442)  
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (212163)  
10.45 *Highlander* (143802)  
11.40 *A406* (488802)  
12.10am *Campus Cops* (7378406)  
5.00 *FreeScreen* (50319)

**ANGLIA**

As HTV West except:  
9.30-10.00 Anglia Election '97 (57111)  
1.00-1.30 Anglia Election '97 (86802)  
5.10-5.40 *Shortland Street* (7361753)  
6.05 Anglia News (300111)  
6.50-7.00 What's On (937579)  
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (212163)  
10.45 Film: *The Super* (55932734)  
12.20am *Sound Bites* (9787896)

**S4C**

Starts: 6.00 *Sesame Street* (75289) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (81892) 8.30 *Ethelbert* 97 (21111) 9.00 *Bewitched* (19483) 9.30 *The Black Sheep of Whitehall* (423173)  
10.55 Film: *The Big Job* (31233753) 12.30pm *Ethelbert* 97 (52395) 1.30 *Slot Melthill* (8630918) 1.45 *Slot Synlunde* (8630918) 2.00 *Racing from Newmarket* (5314) 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (44) 4.30 *Med* (200208) 11.55 *Fraser* (3802) 5.30 *Countdown* (58160) 5.40 *Ethelbert* 97 (52395) 6.35 *Bob Y Ddu* (231647) 7.00 *Pobol y Cwm* (452463) 7.25 *Cymru Gwdd* (822258) 8.00 *Ollon Ddow* (2314) 8.30 *Ethelbert* 97 (52395) 9.30 *Synlunde* (8630918) 10.00 *News* (300111) 10.30 *Anglia News and Weather* (212163) 10.45 Film: *The Super* (55932734) 12.20am *Sound Bites* (9787896)

**CHANNEL 5**

6.00am *Sesame Street* (75289) 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (81892)  
9.00 *Bewitched* with Elizabeth Montgomery (1) (19483)  
9.30 *The Black Sheep of Whitehall* (1941) (19483)  
10.55 *AEI, Bill and Fred* Bob Godfrey's animated moral fable (7459463) 11.00 *How Doctors Work* in the remote Fly River Delta in Papua New Guinea (1) (95958) 12.00 *Garden Party* (1) (19483) 12.30pm *Light Lunch* (52395) 1.30 *Australia Wild* Immigrant deer (1) (19483) (58840)  
2.00 *Racing from Newmarket* Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.05, 2.25, 3.10 and 3.45 races (9314)  
4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (1) (44) 4.30 *Countdown* (1) (56) 5.00 *Ricki Lake* (1) (3802) 5.30 *Pat Rescue* (1) (68)  
6.00 *TFI Friday* Music and guests introduced by Chris Evans (34260)  
7.00 *Channel 4 News* (1) Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (1531)  
8.00 *Garden Party* The team visit Glen Chantry in Essex (1) (2314)  
8.30 *Brookside* While Casey levels accusations at Mick and Elaine, Gladys sells the day (1) (1621)  
9.00 *Caroline in the City* Caroline and the Broomfield Cam mistakenly entrusts the bridesmaid's duties to Annie (1) (5933)  
9.30 *Spin City* Kiss Me, Stupid Mike and Carter end up as a very unlikely couple. Comedy with Michael J Fox (1) (46005)  
10.00 *Fraser: Here's Looking at You* Martin meets a woman when he tinkers with his telescope. With Kelsey Grammer and John Mahoney (1) (1) (30956)

9.30 *Phil Kay* ... Lovely More comedy from the Scottish lunnym (1) (84844)  
11.05 *What's Up Dockers?* High-lights of a benefit show for the 500 sacked Liverpool dockers. Among the line-up are Jo Brand, Eddie Izzard, Sean Hughes and Steve Coogan (128753)  
12.05am *TFI Friday* (1) (478832)  
1.05 *Fresh Pop* (4051048)  
1.10 *The Nanny* (1965) with Bette Davis as a governess who realises her ten-year-old charge is not as innocent as he looks. Directed by Seth Holt (1) (833883)  
2.55 *The Anniversary* (1967) A black comedy with Bette Davis as a dominating mistress who makes life hell for her two sons. Also with Sheila Hancock. Directed by Roy Ward Baker (32339)  
4.35-5.45 *Mary, Martin, or the Murder in the Red Barn* (1935, b/w) A melodrama with Sheila Hancock as a wicked village squire who murders his discarded mistress. Directed by George King (531069)

**CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 53 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies (48°N) transponder No 53 are: 10.92075 GHz, sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am *5 News Early* (6122043)  
7.30 *Havakuzzo* (5977463) 8.00 *Adventures of the Bush Patrol* (8627855) 8.30 *WideWorld* The art work inspired by the sacred shrine at Loreto in Italy (8626956)  
9.00 *Espresso* (2864208) 10.00 *Exclusive* (1) (7434821) 10.30 *Nancy Lann* (1) (1) (880152) 11.00 *Leeds* (957102) 11.50 *Double Exposure* (34874482) 12.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (1) (897444) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (1) (1) (4905483) 1.00 *5 News Update* (4925242) 1.05 *Sunset Beach* (1) (398005) 2.00 *5 Company* (7408734)  
3.30 *Golden Boy* (1938, b/w) with William Holden and Barbara Stanwyck. A young violinist takes up boxing to finance his musical education. Directed by Rouben Mamoulian (3755376)  
5.20 *Wildlife SOS* Highlights (3576305)  
5.30 *100 Per Cent Game Show* (9679885)  
6.00 *Whistle Out* (9676598)  
6.30 *Family Affairs* (1) (9650555)

**5.30pm Jono and Julia Bradbury (7.00pm)**

7.00 *Exclusive* Showbiz gossip (4910901)  
7.30 *Wildlife SOS* Hedgehogs, badgers and bats (1) (1) (9656734)  
8.00 *Attractions* A guide to what's on and where to go in the UK (4110109)  
8.30 *5 News* (5665294)  
9.00 *Scattered Dreams* (1993) with Tine Daly and Gerald McPhee. A drama set in the American South during the 1950s, about a family fighting to clear their name. Directed by Neema Barrette (80738837)  
10.50 *Exclusive Extra* (4975855)  
11.00 *The Jack Docherty Show* Comedy and chat (5222660)  
11.40 *Club Class* Comedy presented by Richard Blackwood, featuring Roy Diamond, Clyde West and John Sinnitt (5406869)  
12.10am *News and Sport* (8088608)  
12.15 *I Passed for Playboy* (1991) with Lynda Carter, Michael Gough and John Wood. Peterson, the story of three women who decide to pose nude for Playboy. Directed by Stephen Stafford (218661)  
2.05 *A Flattul of Dynamite* (1971) with Rod Taylor and James Coburn. A drama set at the time of the Mexican Revolution, about a local thief who learns up with a fugitive Irish mercenary. Directed by Sergio Leone (4252637)  
4.40 *Prisoner: Cell Block H* (4564961)  
5.30-6.00 *100 Per Cent* (1) (2812845)

**SKY 1**

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

6.00am *Morning Glory* (413385) 9.00 *Radio and Video Live* (3265) 10.00 *Another World* (7856) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 12.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 1.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 2.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 3.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 4.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 5.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 6.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 7.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 8.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 9.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 10.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173) 12.00 *Days of Our Lives* (2173)

**SKY 2**

6.00am *Supersport* (300550) 7.00 *Supersport* (300550) 8.00 *Supersport* (300550) 9.00 *Supersport* (300550) 10.00 *Supersport* (300550) 11.00 *Supersport* (300550) 12.00 *Supersport* (300550) 1.00 *Supersport* (300550) 2.00 *Supersport* (300550) 3.00 *Supersport* (300550) 4.00 *Supersport* (300550) 5.00 *Supersport* (300550) 6.00 *Supersport* (300550) 7.00 *Supersport* (300550) 8.00 *Supersport* (300550) 9.00 *Supersport* (300550) 10.00 *Supersport* (300550) 11.00 *Supersport* (300550) 12.00 *Supersport* (300550)

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6.00am *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 7.30 *The Miracle Worker* (1962) (8070485) 8.55 *Yankee Doodle* (1930) (4518655) 11.50 *The Little Boy Who Swam with Piranhas* (1958) (1958) 12.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 1.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 2.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 3.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 4.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 5.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 6.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 7.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 8.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 9.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 10.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 11.00pm *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043) 12.00am *Trail of Tears* (1995) (4579043)

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## RUGBY LEAGUE 45

Paul bubbles as Bradford's day approaches

# SPORT

## MOTOR RACING 49

Mosley seeks to steer safe course



FRIDAY MAY 2 1997

Uninspiring display against Georgia leaves England manager seeking 'special player'

# Hoddle casts around for the creator

By OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

DAMNED with faint praise and gently castigated for choking the centre of his midfield with workers not creators, Glenn Hoddle admitted yesterday that he was searching for a player in his own image to bring a little of the beautiful game back into the play of the England team.

England's comfortable but uninspiring 2-0 win over Georgia in the group two World Cup qualifying tie at Wembley on Wednesday night proved again that the much-vaunted attacking partnership between Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham, who each created a goal for the other, has grown into the team's strongest aspect, the weapon that can rescue them in adversity.

Set against that, though, was the inescapable fact that the central midfield of David

Batty, Paul Ince and Robert Lee was a barren combination, strong on resolution but weak on creativity, a trio that failed to provide any ammunition for the front two as they concentrated on snuffing out the threat from Georgi Kinkladze and Temur Ketsbaia.

David Beckham, the Manchester United midfielder player, who many believe is one solution, was stuck out on the right flank again and Steve McManaman, who has linked midfield and attack so well for Liverpool at times this season, was relegated to the substitutes' bench.

Some of Hoddle's critics have already suggested that he is falling victim to the saddest of ironies, that he is creeping towards a neglect of the country's most sublime talents in the same way that previous England managers chose to ignore him so often, preferring brawn to brain.

Indeed, the picture on the front of the match programme on Wednesday, an action photograph of Hoddle in training, seemed to be a symbol of the fact that England are lacking someone of his touch and vision, someone of his famed passing ability.

The England coach said that he was satisfied with the

## GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	1	0	1	11	1	18
England	5	4	0	1	9	2	12
Poland	4	1	1	2	3	8	4
Georgia	3	0	1	3	2	5	0
Moldova	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

RESULTS: Moldova 0 England 3; Moldova 1 Italy 3; England 2 Poland 1; Italy 1 Georgia 0; Georgia 0 England 2; Poland 2 Moldova 1; England 0 Italy 1; Italy 3 Moldova 0; Poland 0 Italy 3; Poland 0, England 2 Georgia 0.

MATCHES TO COME: May 31: Poland v England; June 7: Georgia v Moldova; June 14: Poland v Georgia; Sept 10: England v Moldova; Georgia v Italy; Sept 24: Moldova v Georgia; Oct 7: Moldova v Poland; Oct 11: Italy v England; Georgia v Poland.

victory, save for a worrying 20-minute spell at the beginning of the second half when his team seemed to lose concentration and allow Georgia several chances to work their way back into the match. And, although he defended the decision to leave out McManaman, reasoning that Sheringham's tendency to drop deep into midfield could have left Shearer isolated without the forging runs of Lee, he accepted that the team on Wednesday had lacked "a jewel in the crown".

"The first goal was a superb goal," he said. "It was well created and if people are talking about lack of invention, there was lots of invention in that. It was a cutting edge goal. At the end of the day, they have had one shot at goal and we have got three points."

"I have been asked if I would like to see a player in the team who is similar to the type of player I was and there are a few people out of the squad at the present time who come close to that."

"That is the type of tactical option I would like to pursue, of course it is. You want a player who can do things. There are a few players who have got that talent who have been out for a certain time

with injuries. You have got Gascoigne, you have got Merson, you have got Le Tissier and you have got Anderson."

"There are four that have got that creativity that just roll off the tongue. We would all love them to be continuous features, we would all love it to be the beautiful game, but the way the modern-day game is going, Brazil have had to

change their style — even then. If you can have that special player, though, he is a jewel in the crown."

Hoddle hinted strongly that had any one of the four named players been fit for the match against Georgia, they would probably have played and it seems likely that if any regain their fitness before the game with Poland in Katowice at the end of this month, either Lee or Batty, or possibly both, will give way.

He also attempted to suggest that not even the places of Shearer and Sheringham were safe in the face of the need for tactical changes, for "horses-for-courses" teams, that Robbie Fowler, Les Ferdinand and Ian Wright should still be hopeful of being able to force their way in.

In the end, though, he fell in with the pacans being sung to the strike force that had given him his fifth victory in his six matches in charge. "Teddy is

very shrewd," Hoddle said. "You can tell him things and he remembers them when the time comes that they are needed. He has got the right kind of experience, just like Tony Adams has. I saw that with him, too, remembering the things I had told him, whereas in the last ten or 15 minutes, when fatigue set in, Sol Campbell, who had had an excellent game, started to forget."

Hoddle even began playing the game of comparing Sheringham and Shearer with great partnerships of the past. He made a half-hearted suggestion of Lineker and Beardsley, but it was dismissed. Someone else said Brookings and Keegan, but that got short shrift, too. In desperation, the search went as far back as Kay and Astle at West Bromwich Albion, a partnership before Hoddle's time. A smile spread across his face. "You've enlightened me there," he said.



Hoddle flexible

# Doherty's brisk start levels out

By PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY and Alain Robidoux, both making their first appearance in the semi-finals of the Embassy world snooker championship, found it impossible to assert their authority in the opening session at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

An overnight 4-4 deadlock in the best-of-33 frame contest was a fair reflection of the exchanges, but Robidoux, the No 14 seed, left the auditorium feeling more content with the position than his Irish rival, after being considered the outsider before play started.

Understandably confident after beating Steve Davis 13-3 and John Higgins 13-9 in the preceding rounds, Doherty enjoyed a psychological edge over Robidoux, having defeated him 9-3 in the quarter-finals of the United Kingdom championship and 6-2 in the last 16 of the Benson and Hedges Masters this season.

Doherty, who became the thirteenth player to earn more than £1 million in career prize-money when he reached the semi-finals, benefited from a predictably crisp start by winning the first frame with a 66 break. A run of 55 gave Robidoux the second, though, and after Doherty had missed in the third, Robidoux unintentionally potted the yellow to a middle pocket, which left Doherty requiring a snooker that he could not obtain.

The next two frames were one-sided. Doherty levelled at 2-2 with a 60 break. Robidoux regained the lead at 3-2 with unanswered contributions of 69 and 62, but surrendered the sixth in unfortunate circumstances, when Doherty fluked a red to initiate his decisive run of 32.

A scrappy seventh frame went the way of Robidoux before Doherty, reserving his

highest break of the session for last, tied the scores at 4-4 with a run of 75. They resume this morning.

Darren Morgan, who asked for Naseem Hamed to be removed from a prominent seat close to the table during his 13-10 quarter-final defeat by Stephen Hendry on Wednesday, was surprised when the boxer criticised him during a press conference to promote his featherweight world title fight against Billy Hardy tomorrow.

Morgan, who claimed he was "intimidated" by Hamed's presence, was upset when the outspoken boxer described him as "childish". Naseem added: "Stephen Hendry is the best player in the world and ... it's a silly, stupid excuse."

"I think he's talking through his hat," Morgan said. "Stephen is used to that kind of attention, that also applies to Naz [Hamed] but it made me feel very uncomfortable."

William Hill quotes Hendry at 3-1 on to take the title for the seventh time in eight years and he made a good start to his semi-final against James Wattana last night, recovering from the loss of the first two frames to finish 5-3 ahead at the end of the session.

Wattana will have taken heart from his 5-2 defeat of Hendry in the quarter-finals of the European Open in Malta two months ago, but a



Doherty considers his next move during an even first session in his semi-final against Robidoux at the Crucible. Photograph: Eric Whitehead

best-of-nine sprint is not comparable to a four-session marathon at a venue in which Hendry perennially excels.

Hendry has emerged victorious in 14 of their 18 encounters and it will be an upset of considerable proportions if Wattana, who has equalled a personal best at the game's leading event by reaching the semi-finals, is to prevent the Scot from extending

his Crucible match-winning sequence to 29.

If Hendry triumphs, it will be his sixth title of the season and the 29th world-ranking tournament success of a professional career that began in 1985.

Alan Chamberlain, 54, of Wigan, has been appointed to referee the final of the championship for the first time. Chamberlain has been chair-

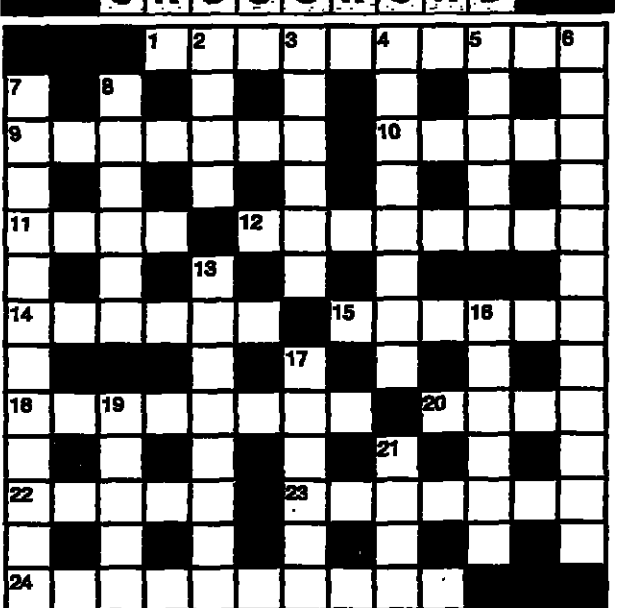
man of the Professional Referees Association for the past three years.

QUARTER-FINALS (best of 25 frames): K Doherty (Eng) vs J Higgins (Sco) 13-4; J Wattana (Wls) vs J Parnell (Eng) 13-10.

SEMI-FINAL (best of 33 frames): Doherty level with A Robidoux (Can) 4-4. Frame scores (Doherty first 104-5, 8-79, 33-76, 80-0, 0-131, 82-25, 23-47, 71-1). S Hendry (Sco) leads Wattana 5-3. Frame scores (Hendry first 0-136, 10-32, 55-42, 73-8, 18-21, 114-6, 125-0, 38-70).

TELEVISION: BBC2, 2.10pm, 7.00pm, 9.00pm and 11.30pm.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1083

### ACROSS

- Meeting-place (10)
- Silhouette, precise (7)
- Taming of Shrew city (5)
- Sideshow cart (4)
- Intellectual (8)
- Time said to be the great one (6)
- He let the punishment fit the crime (6)
- Contaminated: not good enough (for) (8)
- Piece of ground: 91.44cm (4)
- Worthless material (5)
- Version of publication (7)
- Officially recorded (10)

### DOWN

- Wicked (4)
- Considered (6)
- German airship (8)
- Senior in years (5)
- Less than a farm (12)
- Studiedly ignore (one) (4-8)
- (Geol.) beds (6)
- Mild mental disturbance (8)
- Language of Egypt (6)
- Steal (6)
- Incorrect (5)
- As it happens (4)

The solution to 1082 will be published Wednesday, May 7

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# Chelsea win race to sign Uruguayan

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager, further expanded his array of continental talent yesterday when he signed Gustavo Poyet, the Uruguayan midfielder player, on a free transfer from Real Zaragoza, of Spain. Poyet will move to Stamford Bridge, under the Bosman ruling, when his contract with Zaragoza ends on June 30.

Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, said: "Although Gustavo is Uruguayan, he has a Spanish passport and has dual nationality so he doesn't need a work permit. Both the Madrid giants, Real and Atletico, were showing interest in him, as did some Italian clubs. It illustrates the pulling power of Chelsea and the Premiership."

"Injuries and suspensions in recent weeks have confirmed the need for us to add to the squad in readiness for next season. Players of his calibre don't usually become available on free transfers."

Poyet, 29, played in Zaragoza's winning side in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup two years ago, when they beat Arsenal, and also in one leg of the semi-final, when they defeated Chelsea. He played for Uruguay on Wednesday night, when they lost 3-1

against Paraguay in a World Cup qualifying match.

"I watch a lot of English football on television and Chelsea's style of play impresses me," he said. "I believe I'm well suited to the English game and I'm looking forward to playing alongside some great players."

Gullit's foreign contingent continues to grow at pace, with Poyet joining Gianfranco Zola, Roberto Di Matteo and Gianluca Vialli, of Italy, and Frank Leboeuf, of France — Chelsea's most notable imports. Celestine Babayaro, 18, Anderlecht's Nigerian international, has also agreed to move to west London next season.



Poyet: free transfer

# Robson fails in plea for helping hands

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS IF Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, did not have enough worries, another crisis cropped up yesterday when Neil Cox, the club's right back, was told to prepare to play in goal against Aston Villa, his former club, in the FA Cup Premier League fixture at the Riverside Stadium tomorrow.

Robson, whose side face a daunting run-in, with the possibility of relegation at the end of it, alerted Cox after discovering that the club's four specialist goalkeepers — Gary Walsh, Mark Schwarzer, Ben Roberts and Ben Cole — were injured. Although Middlesbrough appealed to the Premier League for special permission to sign a goalkeeper on loan, the request was refused.

"The position is perfectly clear," a Premier League spokesman said. "You can't sign players after the transfer deadline and expect them to play in matches affecting the championship or relegation."

The Premier League fined the club £50,000 and deducted three points in January after Middlesbrough failed to fulfil their game against Blackburn Rovers because Robson claimed he had too many

injured players. An appeal was later dismissed.

Schwarzer, Walsh and Cole, who has a broken hand, will not be able to play against Villa. Roberts, who has been struggling with an elbow injury, was sent home from training when the problem worsened.

"We're having to wrap Robson in cotton wool in an effort to get him fit," Robson said. "If he doesn't make it, Cox will have to play in goal. We haven't put him through any training because, when you've got four goalkeepers and they're all out, you'd surely expect to be allowed to bring someone in."

Cox has no qualms about stepping into the breach. "No problem, I've done it before," he said. "I played one game as the selected goalkeeper for Scunthorpe and I once did 40 minutes for Villa."

It is the first of four matches for the FA Cup finalists in only nine days. "We can't use the excuse of tiredness, because we're fighting for survival," Cox said. "We need three points from every game and then we don't need to look at others to help us out. Even though people say we're struggling, our confidence is still high. We can do it."

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